



Anthropology

University of
Kent

Excellent teaching and course reputation

Anthropology addresses the big question – what makes us human? It is the study of human beings: how we evolved, why we live in different sorts of societies around the world, and how we interact with one another and the environment.

There are two main types of anthropologist: social and biological. Social anthropologists are interested in people's beliefs, customs and family structures. Biological anthropologists are interested in how humans evolved and in understanding the evolutionary roots of human behaviour, as well as the social lives and ecology of monkeys and apes.

An anthropology degree can give you a different perspective on the world, making you comfortable with other cultures and giving you a thorough understanding of the history and behaviour of your own species.

Did you know?

Anthropology at Kent was ranked 1st in the UK for overall student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2008.



Choice and innovation

At Kent we offer a range of programmes so that you can follow your own interests and develop your understanding of this fascinating subject, allowing a flexible and exciting approach to university study. You study a set of core modules which give you a solid background in anthropological theories and techniques, as well as a wide range of options which explore the links between anthropology and other subjects, such as history, psychology, biology, religion, ecology, and art.

Anthropology at Kent offers a number of features which are not often available in anthropology departments elsewhere in Britain.

For example, the integration between social and biological anthropology, an excellent student to staff ratio, state-of-the-art teaching and computing facilities for undergraduates, innovative research-led teaching, a chance to study evolution in Charles Darwin's home county, and a friendly, dynamic, forward-thinking outlook.

A range of programmes

Anthropology has been described as the most scientific of the humanities and the most humanistic of the sciences. Kent reflects this by offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Anthropology. We also offer Bachelor of Science

degrees in Biological Anthropology and Medical Anthropology. See p8 for details on how to choose your degree programme.

International environment

The international environment of the School of Anthropology and Conservation at Kent gives you the chance to look at the subject from a wide range of perspectives. Many of our staff speak a second language or undertake field work abroad, and we have a flourishing Year Abroad programme. You will be studying in a friendly and cosmopolitan environment under the supervision of staff who are leading authorities in their fields.

Effective teaching

In our most recent national Teaching Quality Assessment, Kent's Anthropology teaching was judged to be excellent. This means that our teaching quality, student support and learning resources are among the nation's best. Biological Anthropology was also recently awarded a University teaching prize, reflecting the quality of the undergraduate programme. Our research is also highly rated, both nationally and internationally.

Anthropology at Kent uses a stimulating mix of teaching methods, including lectures, small seminar groups, and laboratory sessions. For project work, you will be assigned to a supervisor with whom you meet regularly. You will also have access to a wide range of learning resources, including



the Templeman Library, subject-specific laboratories, and computer-based learning packages.

Master key skills

As part of your learning experience at Kent, we are dedicated to helping you acquire key skills that will stand you in good stead for future employment. Analysing complex data, getting to grips with challenging ideas, writing well, gaining confidence and experience of expressing your ideas to others – all of these are important skills for your future and ones we will help you improve upon during your degree.

“Anthropology is such a diverse subject that I can be studying human evolution one minute and witchcraft the next. Sometimes I can't quite believe I'm here, studying a subject that really interests me.”

Roy Freeman
BSc (Hons) in Anthropology

Superb facilities and location

Based on a scenic campus, you benefit from a multicultural learning environment as well as the University's first-class reference facilities.

Excellent resources

The School of Anthropology and Conservation has excellent teaching resources, including a teaching laboratory with first-rate equipment and an integrated audiovisual system to help provide stimulating lectures. We have dedicated computing facilities within the School, in addition to the general University IT provision, a darkroom, and an ethnobiology lab for studying human-related plant material.

Students also have access to an excellent fossil cast collection with more than 50 casts of extant and extinct primates and hominins, including an entire *Homo erectus* skeleton. We are associated with the nearby Quex Museum, which has one of the largest collections of primate skeletal remains in the world, as well as an extensive collection of cultural artefacts. Undergraduate students also have research access to human skeletal remains excavated from various archaeological sites through collaborations between local archaeologists and Kent Osteological Research and Analysis (KORA).



Beautiful green campus

Our campus is set in a stunning location. It has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, both lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral.

For entertainment, you're spoilt for choice. The campus has its own cinema, theatre, and even a student nightclub. It has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. There are many restaurants, cafes and bars on campus and for sporty types, there's a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, an off-licence, a bookshop, banks, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it's a 20-minute walk or a short bus-ride into town.

Attractive location

Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is 90 minutes away by train.

Student profile

Helen Bluck is in her third year studying Anthropology.

What attracted you to Kent?

Having looked at other universities, I liked the fact that Kent had a campus with a nice, friendly atmosphere – everyone seemed really open and welcoming, and the course was what I was looking for, too. I came on a couple of visit days, and was shown around the campus and attended a talk by three of the lecturers. We had an opportunity to look at the labs and the skeletal remains so that was quite fun.

How did you feel when you first arrived?

The experience can be quite daunting, but I was also really excited about it. During Freshers' Week, there's so much to do – we had our inductions and were told where to go, and there were lots of activities in the evening.

How is your course going?

I've really enjoyed it. In the first year, you have to take both biological and social modules and I thought that was a good idea because, in the second year, you can choose more of one or the other, depending on what interests you. I hadn't studied anthropology but had taken history and psychology. Some people worry that it will be a big jump from school to university, but it wasn't at all.

What has been the highlight?

I've enjoyed being involved with a course which is obviously taking off – student numbers are increasing and it's exciting to be with a programme which is developing. Overall, it's been a brilliant experience.

What do you think about the general level of support at Kent?

The lecturers are wonderfully supportive and inspiring. They are so enthusiastic about what they teach and that enthusiasm really rubs off on you. Also, if you have a problem, you can go and talk to them about it – they are very down to earth and can communicate with the students really well.

How would you describe the social scene?

The nightlife on campus is good, they do try and cater for everyone. I've done Latin and ballroom dancing. I'm also a cheerleader, which is good exercise and a great way to meet people. There's something for everyone.

The restaurants are fine – there's lots of variety. The Sports Centre runs good classes and I go to the Gulbenkian Cinema, which is great because they show films that you can't see elsewhere – international films as well as mainstream films – and it's a bit cheaper than off-campus cinemas. I've been to the theatre here as well so there is good entertainment here.

What advice would you give to people who are thinking of coming to Kent?

I would say don't panic. Your first year is about finding your feet. I think the first year is very broad-based – certainly in anthropology – and the second and third years are where you start to specialise and choose the things you are interested in. Try to join at least one society. Also, if you have a problem, go and talk to somebody because it might be a small thing that can be easily sorted out.



After graduation: what next?

Many career paths can benefit from the analytical and writing skills you will develop during your studies. Most of the University's students are highly successful after graduation.

Good career prospects

According to employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing extremely well in an ever-changing job market. Six months after graduation in 2007, only 3.2% of Kent graduates were without a job or study opportunity. This puts us well ahead of the national average of 6.2%.

Graduates with Anthropology and Social Anthropology degrees have recently found jobs in education, social work, town and country planning, advertising, journalism, film production, research for radio and TV, overseas development, relief agencies, international consultancy firms, business and the civil service.

In addition, possible careers for Biological Anthropology graduates include science journalism, museum work, forensic science, health care and archaeology. A degree in Medical Anthropology gives you expertise and skills that are useful in the health care sector as well as the pharmaceutical, health insurance and medical service industries. Many of our graduates also go on to pursue further study.



Careers advice

The Careers Advisory Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, how to apply for jobs, how to write a good CV and how to perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate.

“Our digital video and photographic projects get students to think about visual expression and representation, and give them a vividly accessible product for their portfolios; this has given many of them an entry into careers using visual ethnographic skills.”

Dr Peter Parkes

Convenor, undergraduate Visual Anthropology

Did you know?

Kent was ranked 2nd in the UK for anthropology graduate employment prospects in *The Guardian University Guide 2009*.

What our graduates say...

"I chose the BSc in Anthropology because as much as I enjoyed biology, I was even more interested in evolution, how biology affects the lives of individuals, and in cultural differences.

"The enthusiasm, dedication and knowledge of the Biological Anthropology lecturers was integral to my success in the degree and was always evident in lectures, seminars, practical sessions and project supervision. The assignments were interesting, challenging and enjoyable as they were based on a variety of tasks, for instance, poster production, write-ups of practical sessions measuring human physical characteristics, or putting skulls in evolutionary order.

"For me, the most satisfying piece of work I did as an undergraduate was my final year 'Project in Anthropological Science'. In this module, you undertake your own research using methods and insights from scientific anthropology. There is a huge choice of subjects in this area so it is possible to spend a year working on the one aspect that really interests you. The statistics and research methods that I learnt during the module have proved a good basis for my master's research at the University of Cambridge in a subject area that is really a continuation of my final year project from my undergraduate degree."

Julie Chowne

"Having fun and meeting new friends is probably what you think about the most when going to university for the first time. But you may also worry about whether your degree course will include things like good reading lists and interesting practical sessions. If you are considering a degree in anthropology, you might also expect lectures and assignments that cover a range of topics relating not only to your subject, but also to history, archaeology, and even biology. This is why doing Social Anthropology at Kent didn't disappoint me.

"Having now started a PhD, I've realised that my experience of studying Social Anthropology at Kent has also provided me with the information and skills necessary to feel confident in a postgraduate environment. I think this is thanks to my interaction with members of staff, especially during seminars and tutorials. I was encouraged to start discussions, ask for the help that I needed, and question what I should be learning. If you develop this capacity for personal initiative and the responsibility for managing your own learning, then you have the necessary skills to succeed in your future studies or professional career."

Alejandro Agudo-Sanchiz

"My degree prompted a fascination with the great apes and, upon moving to London, I started work with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, a conservation NGO that works to protect the last remaining mountain gorillas in central Africa. I then worked for Save the Rhino International, which campaigns to protect the five remaining rhino species in Africa and Asia. During my time there, I was fortunate enough to manage their wonderfully eccentric London Marathon team, which includes 12 rhino-costumed runners, and climb Mount Kilimanjaro with a team of (far fitter) fundraisers.

"I then briefly left the animal world, and worked for the development organisation, WaterAid, where I managed their corporate partnerships. I now work in the PR and media team at the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), and am currently organising a global photographic exhibition which will feature the challenges faced by animals around the world, such as the bushmeat trade and intensive industrial farming."

Kirstie Wielandt

Choosing your programme

Not sure which programme to choose? Here's a guide to what's available.

Anthropology

The BSc in Anthropology at Kent is one of the few anthropology degree programmes in the UK that offers a mixture of biological anthropology, medical anthropology and social anthropology throughout the degree to give you a broad picture of what it means to be human. It is the perfect degree if you are interested in the study of primates, human evolution, disease, nutrition, skeletal biology, or genetics, and want to combine this with the study of cultures and the social aspects of being human. This integrated approach is ideal if you want to move from a science background into the social sciences or humanities or from the social sciences and humanities towards a more scientific approach.

"I came to Kent because I wanted to study anthropology and the School takes a scientific perspective. The course has lived up to all my expectations – it's a fascinating subject."

Tom Langendoen
Recent graduate
BSc (Hons) in Anthropology



Biological Anthropology

The BSc in Biological Anthropology focuses on the study of human evolution and adaptation. Biological anthropologists are particularly interested in investigating why variation arose and how it is maintained, as well as trying to explain how people are adapted to the environments in which they live. They study this variation and adaptation in human groups from both contemporary and evolutionary perspectives, and are interested in both modern and past human populations.

Biological anthropology has four main subdisciplines: human biology and behaviour, genetics, human evolution, and primatology.

Typical questions that biological anthropologists might ask are: why do people living in different areas have different skin colours or facial shapes? What diseases existed in ancient populations? How did humans evolve? How closely related are humans and chimpanzees? Why are symmetrical faces more attractive? What can we learn about how people lived from studying their skeletons? Why is sex fun?

Medical Anthropology

The BSc in Medical Anthropology explores the causes and consequences of illness and disease. Medical anthropologists are interested in how culture, environment, history, and political economy influence health,

sickness, and medicine. Students entering the programme should have an interest in health as well as a willingness to take part in informed debates about current and often controversial issues relating to health, policy, and medicine. Typical questions that medical anthropologists might ask include: why do people get sick? How does one's experience of the body differ between cultures? Are humans the only species that use medicine? What happens when folk medicine and professional biomedicine are used at the same time? What are the health effects of mass-produced food? What makes plants effective medicines? Why are pharmaceuticals so expensive?

Social Anthropology

The BA in Social Anthropology involves the comparative study of human societies and cultures from around the world. Social anthropologists are interested in the whole range of people's ideas, beliefs, practices and activities, from their social, political and economic organisation to their rituals, myths and forms of religious worship – from how they work and what they eat to what they wear and how they marry.

The BA programme takes you through the core areas of social anthropological investigation – religion, kinship and family, politics and economics – while specialist ethnographic modules allow you to enter into the worlds of small-scale societies and communities

in South America, the Middle East, South-east Asia, Central Asia, the Pacific, Mediterranean Europe and North Africa – all of which are taught by members of staff who are themselves active researchers who have lived and worked in those areas. At the same time, the course offers a wide range of optional modules on such topics as gender, human ecology, health and illness, language, culture and cognition, ethnicity and nationalism, development, food and diet, and even the anthropology of business and of law; these are all as much concerned with our own industrial societies as with small-scale non-industrial ones. A major strength of the BA programme at Kent also lies in visual anthropology, with modules on the anthropological use of photography, film and video, including practical classes and visual anthropology projects, and a special feature of your training at Kent is the application of computers and IT to anthropological research and practice.

The human world is immensely rich and diverse. Social Anthropology at Kent allows you to experience that richness and diversity, and gives you the analytical and observational skills to intellectually appreciate and understand them.

Archaeology & Anthropology

The BA in Archaeology and Anthropology is convened by Classical and Archaeological

Studies, but is taught in conjunction with Anthropology. This programme gives you the chance to experience a combination of modules in Archaeology, Social Anthropology and Biological Anthropology. More information can be found in the *Undergraduate Prospectus* or by contacting Classical and Archaeological Studies.

Study Abroad programmes

These four-year programmes give you the opportunity to spend a year studying abroad as part of your BA or BSc degree. Instruction during the year abroad in Finland, the Netherlands, and Japan is in English. For years abroad in France, Germany, Italy, or Spain, instruction is in the language of that country. During the year in Japan, you are able to study one or more Asian Pacific societies, cultures, and languages. For Biological Anthropology with a year in the United States, you have a choice of a wide range of destination universities and the opportunity to either specialise or diversify your studies.

Joint Honours

You can combine the BA in Social Anthropology with another subject by choosing a joint honours programme. Kent offers a wide range of subject areas; for a full list of options, see Application facts (p23). To obtain the relevant leaflet for your joint subject, please contact the Information and Guidance Unit (see p22).

Studying at Stage 1

During Stage 1 (your first year of full-time study), you take modules which give you a broad background in the subject.

All students on the Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Medical Anthropology and Social Anthropology programmes take:

- Foundations of Human Culture
- Introduction to Social Anthropology.

BSc Anthropology, Biological Anthropology and Medical Anthropology students also take:

- Computing for Anthropologists
- Practical Introduction to Biological Anthropology.

BSc Anthropology students also take one of the following:

- People and Plants
- Economic and Environmental Systems

or your choice of one other module.

Biological Anthropology students also take one of the following:

- Economic and Environmental Systems
- Environmental Sciences
- Fundamental Human Biology
- Human Physiology and Disease.

Medical Anthropology students also take one of the following:

- Fundamental Human Biology



- Introduction to the History of Medicine
- People and Plants.

If you are on the Social Anthropology programme, you take:

- People and Plants and/or
 - People and Animals
- or your choice of two other 15-credit modules.

Your remaining modules are chosen from a wide range offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences, including language modules which you must take if you want to spend a year abroad in a non-English speaking country. If you are on a joint honours programme, you also take required modules for

your other subject. On average you have four hours of lectures and six hours of seminars and/or lab sessions each week.

For the project modules, you are assigned to a supervisor whom you meet regularly. Most modules also involve a great deal of individual study using the library and, where relevant, the laboratories and computer-based learning packages.

Teaching and assessment

Many of the core modules have an end-of-year examination which accounts for 50% to 80% of your final mark for that module. The remaining percentage comes from practical or coursework marks. However, others, such as the

'Project in Anthropological Science' and 'Human Osteology', are assessed entirely on coursework. Both Stage 2 and 3 marks and, where appropriate, the marks from your year abroad, count towards your final degree result.

Modules: Stage 1

Please note: this list of modules is not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. Please see our website for the most up-to-date information on modules we are offering.

Computing for Anthropologists

This module introduces you to using computers in anthropology. You learn basic skills such as writing, drawing, and accessing information relevant to anthropology. You discover how computers can be used to work with field notes, ethnographic photographs and video and audio material. You also use computers to explore human knowledge in areas ranging from kinship to navigation in the South Seas, and analyse the variety of human society with computer models.

Economic and Environmental Systems

The survival of man and other living organisms is ultimately controlled by the interaction of our economic system and the earth's resources and climate. In Part I, you consider Earth history and the main environmental systems of the earth. In Part II, we explore the

impact of man on the Earth and its resources from a systems perspective. In Part III, you look at imbalances in the economic-environment system that have given rise to environmental problems such as climate change and biodiversity loss, and consider potential solutions.

Environmental Sciences

This module considers human use of natural resources and the way in which changing patterns of use are influencing policies.

The environmental sciences (agriculture, horticulture, medicine, epidemiology, forestry, fisheries, pollution science, pedology, hydrology and water management, mining) are reviewed to assess the concept of sustainability. You also look at the need for global conservation in the context of sustainable development.

Foundations of Human Culture

This module is an introduction to Biological Anthropology and human prehistory. It provides an exciting introduction to humans as the product of evolutionary

processes. We explore primates and primate behaviour, human growth and development, elementary genetics, the evolution of our species, origins of agriculture and cities, perceptions of race, and current research into human reproduction and sexuality. You develop skills in synthesising information from a range of sources and learn to critically evaluate various hypotheses about human evolution, culture, and behaviour.

Fundamental Human Biology

This module equips you with a working understanding of how the human body performs many of its basic functions. The concepts and terminology are illustrated from everyday life, such as the effects of alcohol and caffeine on kidney function, cancer as a disease involving disturbance of normally balanced cellular processes, and why most of us are immunised as infants to protect us from disease.

Human Physiology and Disease

This module considers the anatomy and function of normal tissues, organs and systems and their diseases. You examine the manifestation of various conditions at the level of cells, tissues and the whole patient, and also discuss diagnosis, available prognostic indicators and treatment.

Did you know?

Anthropology at Kent was rated 6th in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2009.

Continued overleaf

Studying at Stage 1 (cont)

Introduction to the History of Medicine

The module introduces you to a broad range of material and themes relevant to the history of medicine, highlighting changes and continuities in medical practice and theory as well as in medical institutions and professional conduct.

Introduction to Social Anthropology

Social Anthropology is a discipline which has traditionally specialised in the study of non-Western, pre-industrial societies. With increasing frequency, however, social and cultural anthropologists have turned towards the study of 'home', using insights gained from studying other cultures to illuminate aspects of their own society. This module looks at people from places as different as the rainforests of West Africa and the industrial heartlands of Britain and America, and introduces you to social anthropology through a selection of topics to illustrate the kind of issues that social anthropologists study and the arguments and theories they have developed.

People and Plants

In this module, you are introduced to the interdisciplinary subject of ethnobotany, the study of the human conceptualisation and use of plants, historically and cross-culturally. The module emphasises the importance of culture in mediating the use of plants among humans and explores the



role of wild and domestic plants in human evolution, including the way human societies have manipulated and altered the landscape.

Practical Introduction to Biological Anthropology

This module introduces you to the principles and practice of biological anthropology through guided hands-on learning. Covering the broad range of biological anthropology from genetics to human evolution, from primatology to human adaptation and behaviour, the module consists of a series of fortnightly laboratory classes run in parallel with the subject areas covered by Foundations of Human Culture. Through conducting and writing

up the practical exercises, you gain a deeper understanding of biological anthropology and an appreciation of the interconnectedness of the discipline and its relationship to both natural and social sciences.

Did you know?

The University has a cosmopolitan atmosphere with 139 different nationalities represented on campus.

Studying at Stages 2 and 3

In Stages 2 and 3, you develop specialised knowledge and skills. The modules taken in your second year (Stage 2) lay the foundations for more specialised study in your final, Stage 3 year.

Anthropology

You take compulsory modules in:

- Advanced Social Anthropology I and II
- Biological Anthropology: Comparative Perspectives
- Biological Anthropology: The Human Animal
- Methodology in Anthropological Science
- Project in Anthropological Science.

Your options for your remaining module include the following:

- The Anthropology of Amazonia
- The Anthropology of Business
- The Anthropology of Eating
- The Anthropology of Gender
- The Anthropology of Health, Illness and Medicine
- Anthropology and Language
- The Anthropology of Law
- Culture and Cognition
- Current Issues in Evolutionary Anthropology
- Ethnicity and Nationalism
- The Ethnography of Central Asia

- The Evolution of Hominin Behaviour
- The Evolution of Human Diversity
- History of Evolutionary Thought
- Human Ecology
- Human Osteology
- Medicinal Plants: Home Remedies, Pharmaceuticals and Illicit Substances
- North Mediterranean Societies
- Pacific Societies
- Palaeopathology
- Photographic Project in Visual Anthropology
- Primate Behaviour and Ecology
- Sex, Evolution and Human Nature
- Sociological and Anthropological Approaches to Development
- South-East Asian Societies
- Southern Mediterranean Societies
- Video Project in Visual Anthropology
- Visual Anthropology Theory.

Biological Anthropology

You take compulsory modules in:

- Biological Anthropology: Comparative Perspectives
- Biological Anthropology: The Human Animal
- Current Issues in Evolutionary Anthropology
- Methodology in Anthropological Science
- Project in Anthropological Science.

You take at least two of:

- Human Osteology
- Primate Behaviour and Ecology
- Sex, Evolution and Human Nature.

Your options for your remaining modules include the following:

- The Anthropology of Health, Illness and Medicine
- Archaeology of Death
- The Evolution of Hominin Behaviour
- The Evolution of Human Diversity
- Evolutionary Genetics and Conservation
- Forensic Archaeology
- History of Evolutionary Thought
- Human Ecology
- Palaeopathology.

Medical Anthropology

You take compulsory modules in:

- The Anthropology of Eating
- The Anthropology of Health, Illness and Medicine
- Biological Anthropology: Comparative Perspectives
- Biological Anthropology: The Human Animal
- Methodology in Anthropological Science
- Project in Anthropological Science.

Continued overleaf

Studying at Stages 2 and 3 (cont)

Your options for your remaining modules include the following:

- Current Issues in Evolutionary Anthropology
- Human Ecology
- Human Osteology
- Medicinal Plants: Home Remedies, Pharmaceuticals and Illicit Substances
- Palaeopathology
- Primate Behaviour and Ecology
- Sex, Evolution and Human Nature.

Social Anthropology

During Stages 2 and 3, you take:

- Advanced Social Anthropology I and II
- Ethnographies I and II
- Main Currents in Anthropological Thought.

You choose most of your remaining modules from the following:

- Anthropology and Language
- The Anthropology of Amazonia
- The Anthropology of Business
- The Anthropology of Eating
- The Anthropology of Gender
- The Anthropology of Health, Illness and Medicine
- The Anthropology of Law
- Culture and Cognition
- Ethnicity and Nationalism
- The Ethnography of Central Asia
- History of Evolutionary Thought
- Human Ecology
- North Mediterranean Societies
- Pacific Societies
- Photographic Project in Visual Anthropology

- Sociological and Anthropological Approaches to Development
- South-East Asian Societies
- Southern Mediterranean Societies
- Special Project in Social Anthropology
- Video Project in Visual Anthropology
- Visual Anthropology Theory.

Up to a quarter of your modules can be chosen from other subject areas. If you are on a joint honours programme, you must take the required modules for your other subject.

Modules: Stages 2 and 3

Please note: this list of modules is not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly.

Please see our website for the most up-to-date information on modules we are offering.

Advanced Social Anthropology I

This module introduces you to advanced social anthropological thinking on the major topics that are generally considered to constitute the core of contemporary anthropology. The curriculum is divided into two equally weighted thematic blocks complementary to those offered in Ethnographies I. These blocks are provisionally entitled: Self and Other (dealing with subjects such as: marriage, family, gender, body, descent, the developmental cycle, ethnicity); and Consumption and

Exchange (money, markets, property, modes of production, urbanisation, globalisation, agricultural systems).

Advanced Social Anthropology II

You are introduced to advanced social anthropological thinking on the major topics that are generally considered to constitute the core of contemporary anthropology. The curriculum is divided into two equally weighted thematic blocks complementary to those offered in Ethnographies II. These blocks are provisionally entitled: Power and Authority (political systems, legal pluralism, power and rhetoric, millenarianism, the nation state, patrons and clients.); and Belief and Practice (world religions, local beliefs, medical systems, rationality, morality, ideology, indigenous knowledge).

Anthropology and Language

This is an introduction to linguistic anthropology and a critical exploration of the relationship between language, culture and social organisation. Topics include: language and thought in the history of anthropology, the rudiments of linguistic description, language as a social phenomenon, oratory and ritual speech, the significance of the written word and literacy, and speech variation.

The Anthropology of Amazonia

This module employs several classic ethnographic studies of South America – by anthropologists such as Claude Levi-Strauss, Pierre Clastres,

Philippe Descola, William Fisher, Neil Whitehead and Michael Taussig – to examine how the Amazon has inscribed itself on the imagination of anthropologists, as well as how anthropologists have used their experiences in non-Western societies to contribute to broad debates in Western philosophy. Ethnographic case-studies provide the basis for discussing issues of theoretical and topical importance, such as environmentalism; political ecology, ethnogenesis, gender relations, kinship and exchange. Ultimately, this engagement challenges some of the most basic categories of our discipline: 'the state', 'society', and 'culture'.

The Anthropology of Business

Anthropology has an important role to play in the examination of our own organisational lives as embedded in various forms of capitalism. This module allows you to gain anthropological perspectives on business formations, structures, practices and ideologies. Businesses – be they individuals, families, corporations, nation states or multilateral corporations – have identities that are invariably distinct from one another and which are forged on and promote particular social relationships. Ethnographic case studies, and a strong emphasis on the stock market in the second half of the module will provide the basis for discussing how these social relationships enact power and are embedded in broader cultural



processes such as ethnicity, nationalism, migration and kinship as well as ideologies of gender, aesthetics and religion to name a few. Acknowledging the multiple dynamic relationships between businesses, people and marketplaces will allow you to evaluate their roles as reactive producers, consumers and disseminators of cultural processes within our surrounding environments, extending from the local to the global.

The Anthropology of Eating

This module is about the significance of food production, trade and consumption in relation to cultural evolution, globalisation, identity and health. It covers different modes of food

production, the domestication of animals and the cultivation of staple crops in the course of social development. It looks at different theories about the importance of food production for the rise of urban cultures and organised religion, and the relationship of food production systems to trade, colonial expansion and the process of globalisation. Moving from production and distribution to eating itself, the module covers notions of food identity at collective and individual levels, by looking at the process of food preparation and consumption and abstinence in different cultural settings. It also looks at various forms of disordered eating, the dynamic relationship between

Studying at Stages 2 and 3 (cont)

cultures and eating, and contemporary debates over fast food, genetic engineering, and personal identity against the background of rising food prices, regional food shortage and the management of famine in different countries.

The Anthropology of Gender

The study of gender has now begun to look at how power, knowledge and social action are expressed through men and women in society. This module traces the developments of the theoretical debate in anthropology, while providing ethnographic material illustrating the theoretical perspectives and the cross-cultural variations in the definition of gender identities. Concepts of sex and gender are examined using anthropological material generated through the study of religion, ritual and politics.

The Anthropology of Health, Illness and Medicine

Health and illness are of major concern to most of us, irrespective of our cultural and social background. Yet perceptions of what constitutes health and illness vary greatly, and health is often defined by its antithesis: we know what it means to be healthy when illness strikes, but 'health' is not a state most people think about. Anthropology and sociology have now begun a critical examination of biomedicine and this module explores how ideas surrounding health and illness are culturally constructed.

The Anthropology of Law

Law is often assumed to stand 'outside' of society, either because it is 'above' us or even 'behind' us, as in 'society changes too fast for the law to keep up'. This module proposes law as an ethnographic subject, that is, a field of action governed by rather than governing social and cultural sensibilities.

You examine how social relationships can come to appear rule-like to legal and anthropological studies alike. Since lawyers contributed to the early formation of the discipline of anthropology, anthropology itself may be seen as the product of a legalistic classification of human relations.

You proceed through the history of the relationship between anthropology and law as disciplines, and through ethnographic material from different legal environments. You also consider subjects such as language, gender, class and religion and their effects upon the experiences of people involved in processes of dispute and resolution. Finally, you investigate how well law 'travels' between societies, and between different levels of the same society: for instance, how do concepts such as legal pluralism, the cultural defence and universal human rights affect the theory and practice of law?

Archaeology of Death

The archaeological study of death is far more than the discovery and

forensic analysis of bodies. How people treat their dead provides fascinating insights into their cultural behaviour, social order, and belief systems. This module examines how archaeologists use mortuary activity to further their understanding of human attitudes and behaviours in the past.

Biological Anthropology: Comparative Perspectives

This module provides the fundamental theoretical and comparative perspective that lies at the heart of biological anthropology. The first part of the module covers modern evolutionary theory, together with Mendelian and population genetics, to give students a thorough grounding in this topic. The second part covers comparative primatology, providing an understanding of the diversity of primates and their use as comparative models for understanding human evolution. Particular attention is paid to the evolutionary history of the primates and comparative primate (skeletal) anatomy, both placed in an evolutionary ecological context.

Biological Anthropology: The Human Animal

This is a broad survey covering such topics as ecological adaptation, the human fossil record and human variation. All of these areas are placed within the framework of the interaction of humans within their environment. In addition, the interplay between humans and their environment will



be examined, and practical laboratory exercises, as well as tutorial topics, will facilitate the discussion of many biological issues within a cultural context.

Culture and Cognition

This module is an introduction to cognitive anthropology and a critical exploration of theories concerning the relationship between cognitive processes, culture and social organisation. Topics include: the forming of categories, relations between categories, the symbolic construction of nature, the classification of natural kinds, the convergence of cognitive and symbolic approaches, the evolution of hominin cognitive processes, the development of second order representations, social cognition and classification, spatial orientation, time reckoning and the cultural construction of knowledge.

Current Issues in Evolutionary Anthropology

This module is an advanced treatment of current topics and debates within scientific anthropology such as anthropological genetics, demography, growth and development, nutrition, medical anthropology, evolutionary psychology, race, and human adaptability. Emphasis is on advances in these areas during the past decade and the directions of future research. The module enables you to understand how research



and publication works in anthropological science and to expose you to a broad series of topics, opinions, methodologies, journal articles, and ideas in numerous, highly relevant fields of research.

Ethnicity and Nationalism

Both of these key words have travelled a long way from their original meanings and now tend to be used inconsistently by politicians, scholars and laymen alike. This module focuses on the modern period and topics include: the virtues and limitations of political economy explanations, the construction of nationalist ideologies, the rights of minority groups, the role of religion, interest groups and language

in ethnic/national movements, and the rewriting of history and the invention of tradition.

Ethnographies I

This module consists of ethnographies of varying length to be read at the rate of one (or a substantial part of one) a week. The selection of ethnographies is determined in conjunction with the topics taught in the Advanced Social Anthropology I module, which is divided into two blocks provisionally labelled Self and Other, and Consumption and Exchange. You are encouraged to relate your reading to wider anthropological issues raised by the authors.

Continued overleaf

Studying at Stages 2 and 3 (cont)



Ethnographies II

This module consists of ethnographies of varying length to be read at the rate of one (or a substantial part of one) a week. The selection of ethnographies is determined in conjunction with the topics taught in the Advanced Social Anthropology II module, which will be divided into two blocks provisionally Power and Authority, and Belief and Practice. You are encouraged to relate your reading to wider anthropological issues raised by the authors.

The Ethnography of Central Asia

This module covers ethnographies of western Asian societies ranging from Pakistan through Central Asia (Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and ex-Soviet Central Asian nations such as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan) to the Caucasus. It introduces the history of civilisation and Turco-Persian cultures in this region, its history of orientalist (philological) scholarship, and modern fieldwork. Topics include: tribe and state, peasant and urban economies, family and marriage, codes of prestige and etiquette, sexuality and seclusion, religion and experience. A primary focus is on Central Asian Islamic religion and civilisation, but minority faiths (Zoroastrianism, Baha'i, Orthodox Christianity, pre-Islamic traditions) are treated together with modern predicaments of secularisation and political fundamentalism. You are also encouraged to study

modern cinema films and narrative literature from this region.

The Evolution of Hominin Behaviour

Hominins – the array of species of which ours is the only living representative – provide the clues to our own origins. In this module, the methods and evidence used to reconstruct their biology and behaviour are introduced. Evolution of the major human adaptations is discussed, and the reconstructions of hominin behaviour, and the evidence on which these are based, are critically examined. This module provides you with an advanced knowledge of human evolution, including hominin nomenclature and taxonomy, as well as the principles and techniques used in the examination of the evolutionary history of hominins.

The Evolution of Human Diversity

This module provides an in-depth introduction to 'racial anthropology' and its impact on the modern disciplines of both biological and socio-cultural anthropology. You review historical aspects of racial anthropology such as the establishment of racial classification schemes, the abuse of quantifiable biological data to support racially motivated schemes and socio-political movements. These historical accounts provide the necessary background to appreciate and fully understand the modern discipline of biological anthropology.

Biological anthropologists today use a variety of analytical models and techniques drawn from population and quantitative genetics in order to analyse human biological diversity in a meaningful way. You are introduced to the complexities of microevolutionary theory through a series of modern human case studies, and learn the extent to which humans have adapted to various environmental conditions as well as understanding the effects of recent migrations, demographic changes and population expansions.

Evolutionary Genetics and Conservation

Genetics forms the basis of the diversity of life on earth. It is fundamental to biodiversity, speciation, evolutionary ecology, and is vital to the successful restoration of endangered species. An understanding of the evolutionary processes that foster biodiversity and genetic diversity

"The lecturers are interesting and enthusiastic and this inspires me to work hard and learn more. I feel that this course has helped me to think from a new perspective. Highly recommended!"

Catriona Ball

BA (Hons) in Social Anthropology
with a Year in the Netherlands



is essential for modern conservation biologists, across timescales ranging from a few generations to millions of years. In this module, you gain an understanding of the importance of genetic processes and evolutionary mechanisms within the context of conservation.

Forensic Archaeology

This module explores how forensic science is used to examine and interpret archaeological finds, and in investigations of current crimes. You learn the most up-to-date techniques for dating both human and animal remains, and methods for dating artefacts.

History of Evolutionary Thought

This module explores the emergence of modern evolutionary biology, its role in society, and how evolution is core to Biological Anthropology. You delve into the ideas presented by Linnaeus, Lamarck, Darwin and Mendel to gain insight into the history of evolutionary ideas, and explore the foundations and development of the modern evolutionary synthesis.

Human Ecology

You are introduced to environmental anthropology and given a critical exploration of the theories surrounding the relationship between culture, social organisation and ecology. Topics include: environmental determinism and cultural ecology, biological models and the concept of system, negative and positive

feedback, ethnoecology, the description of subsistence, the concept of cultural adaptation, the ecology of hunting and gathering peoples, and the anthropology of the environmental movement.

Human Osteology

The study of the human skeletal system is basic to the discipline of biological anthropology. In this module, you examine the fundamentals of human osteology, learn to identify and analyse human bone, and evaluate and interpret major research in biological anthropology that has as its basis the analysis of bone.

Main Currents in Anthropological Thought

This module explores the philosophical and scientific antecedents of current practices in anthropology, looking at evolutionism, the development of field methods, the culture-historical schools, functionalism, structural-functionalism, structuralism, Marxism, 'practice theory', the influence of Weber, feminism, and post-modernism.

Medicinal Plants: Home Remedies, Pharmaceuticals and Illicit Substances

This module is an introduction to ethnopharmacology, a multidisciplinary field of study that employs chemistry, ecology, biology, pharmacology and anthropology to understand the use of plants (and other substances) in non-western medical systems. You look at

the actions of natural products in the human body, the ecological and evolutionary basis of medicinal plant use, the epistemology of non-western medical systems, the efficacy of medicinal plants and pharmaceuticals based on traditional medicines.

Methodology in Anthropological Science

This module prepares you for your project research. You learn how to design and conduct a study into one or more aspects of anthropological science, handle data and use the appropriate statistical techniques to test hypotheses, communicate your ideas, and appreciate the reliability and limitations of research within scientific anthropology.

North Mediterranean Societies

The dominant themes of North Mediterranean ethnography are institutional egalitarianism, honour and shame, cultural urbanism, patronage, familism, peasantries and political turbulence. In examining these topics, you are introduced to the main classic ethnographic studies of this region and encouraged to explore sources of variation in social and cultural forms.

Pacific Societies

The societies of the Pacific, including Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia and Australia, have long attracted anthropologists to the diversity of its peoples and the complexity of their social

Studying at Stages 2 and 3 (cont)

worlds. This module provides a detailed exploration of the implications of Pacific ethnography in both written and filmed media. The continuing magnetism of the Pacific for anthropologists in search of unique forms of sociality, and for tourists in search of authentic primitives, will also be a topic of investigation.

Palaeopathology

Anthropologists are interested in the relationships between humans and their environment, as well as the changing patterns of health and disease over time. The primary source of information on past diseases is the human skeleton. In this module, you explore the changes that occur in the human skeleton in response to various environmental influences. You also examine pathological conditions associated with both infectious and non-infectious diseases as well as those caused by traumatic events.

Photographic Project in Visual Anthropology

This module builds on the conceptual issues introduced in the Visual Anthropology Theory module. You are given basic instruction in photographic methods (both camera and black-and-white darkroom techniques) as well as in the use of computer image manipulation (using scanners and Adobe Photoshop) to carry out an ethnographic project using photographs.



Primate Behaviour and Ecology

This module provides you with the comparative perspective that lies at the heart of biological anthropology through the study of primate behaviour and ecology. Set within an evolutionary framework, the module combines established findings with the latest research, and places the emphasis on what primates actually do, and the patterns and principles that can be generalised from this variety. You cover the interaction of primates with their environments, interactions between different species, social and reproductive behaviour within primate groups, the nature and evolution of primate societies, and primate cognition and communication.

You make use of multimedia technology to allow you to see and hear primates in their natural habitats, and will teach the basic methods used by researchers studying both captive and free-living primates.

Project in Anthropological Science

You conduct original research into an aspect of scientific anthropology and present your research findings in the form of a dissertation and a short oral presentation. You collect and analyse your own data, analyse previously published data in an original manner, or combine the two approaches. In most cases, the research includes collecting/analysing quantitative data, and you are assigned an



individual supervisor who advises you on your choice of topic and your research strategy.

Sex, Evolution and Human Nature

This module explores the principles of evolutionary anthropology and other complementary paradigms. The module looks at human behaviour (primarily human sexual behaviours) from an evolutionary perspective. Topics covered are reproductive and mating strategies, parenting behaviour, kinship, co-operation, survival, status striving, jealousy, and aggression, and provides an excellent understanding of the biological nature of human behaviour.

Sociological and Anthropological Approaches to Development

Faith in 20th-century development and progress has been severely shaken by the environmental crisis and the failures of international development assistance. Drawing on a variety of ethnographic materials and case studies, this module discusses the nature of economic and social change in post-colonial societies, offers a critical analysis of sustainable development and globalisation, and introduces you to the practice of planning policy interventions including humanitarian assistance.

South-East Asian Societies

This module introduces you to the ethnography of the countries of South-east Asia and provides an opportunity to discuss contemporary issues affecting the

region. You study agricultural and urban developments, the political systems which exist at local and national levels, the importance of religious belief in social organisation and issues of gender and power in the region.

Southern Mediterranean Societies

The northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean have been involved in a 'constitutive' relationship since traffic across the 'inland sea' began. This module opens with a consideration of that formative tension, both in popular and academic thought more generally (from Pirenne's Charlemagne and Mohammad to Huntingdon's Clash of Civilisations) and in anthropology in particular, with attention to the history and theorisation of the Anthropology of the Middle East and the Anthropology of Islam in relation to 'Mediterranean Anthropology'.

A number of themes – gender, honour, tribes and families, rural and urban life, popular and institutional religions, writing and recitation, modernity – are unpacked with a dual reference to the anthropological literature on the general topic paired with specific instantiation in ethnographic studies linked to core areas in the curriculum.

You also look at core issues of contemporary political and cultural concern – fundamentalism, terrorism, dynastic dictatorship among them – and seek to

elaborate both continuities and discontinuities with these themes as well as with those treated in other domains of anthropology. Finally, the question of how to write ethnographies of the Southern Mediterranean today is examined and you are shown that Southern Mediterranean anthropology, while seeming (as Gilsenan says) 'very much like a camel', is nonetheless unmistakably very much part of the family of contemporary anthropologies.

Special Project in Social Anthropology

Social Anthropology students have the opportunity to do a project of their own devising. You can pursue a course of reading under supervision or undertake a supervised research project of your choice.

Visual Anthropology Theory

This module investigates how anthropology can contribute to – and gain insight from – the analysis of visual forms of representation. You look at anthropological representations with reference to contemporary media such as photography, film, video and TV.

Video Project in Visual Anthropology

Building on the conceptual issues introduced in 'Visual Anthropology Theory', you are given basic instruction in researching, producing and editing a short ethnographic video film.

Visiting our campus and applying to Kent

Come along for an **Open Day** or a **UCAS Visit Day** and see for yourself what it is like to be a student at Kent.

Open Days

Canterbury Open Days are held in July and October for potential students, and their family and friends, to have a look round the campus. The day includes a wide range of subject displays, informal lectures and seminars, and the chance to tour the campus with current students to view accommodation and facilities. You can also meet staff to discuss course options or admissions, disability and dyslexia support and study skills. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays/

UCAS Visit Days

UCAS Visit Days run between December and April each year. They include a tour of the campus, a general talk on the University and a talk from a subject representative. You have the chance to meet academic staff in your chosen subject and to discuss any queries you may have. If you are invited for an interview, it will usually be held on one of our Visit Days. If we make you an offer without an interview, it usually includes an invitation to a Visit Day, but this might not be possible if you have applied late. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visitdays/



More information

If you have any queries, the Information and Guidance Unit offers a friendly service with advice on how to choose your degree, admissions procedures, how to prepare for your studies, and information about the University of Kent's facilities and services.

Tel: 01227 827272
Freephone (UK only):
0800 975 3777
Email: information@kent.ac.uk

You can also write to us at:
Information and Guidance Unit,
The Registry, University of Kent,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.

For the latest information on
studying anthropology at Kent,
please see www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/

Did you know?

The School of Anthropology and Conservation offers an undergraduate scholarship which could mean an extra £1,000 a year. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/studying/funding/scholarships/

Application facts

Location

Canterbury.

Award

BSc (Hons) and BA (Hons).

Degree programme

Single honours

- Anthropology (L601)
- Anthropology with a Year in Europe (L603)
- Anthropology with a Year in Japan (L604)
- Biological Anthropology (L620)
- Biological Anthropology with a Year in the United States (L622)
- Medical Anthropology (L621)
- Social Anthropology (L600)
- Social Anthropology with a Year in Finland (L677)
- Social Anthropology with a Year in the Netherlands (L610)
- Social Anthropology with a Year in Japan (L612)
- Social Anthropology with French (L675)
- Social Anthropology with German (L676)
- Social Anthropology with Italian (L673)
- Social Anthropology with Spanish (L674)
- Archaeology & Anthropology (QL86)

Joint honours

Social Anthropology and...

- Cultural Studies (LV69)
- Economics (LL16)
- History (LVP1)
- Philosophy (LVP5)
- Politics (LL62)
- Psychology (CL86)
- Sociology (LL36)
- Sociology with a Year in Finland (LL63)

Year Abroad

The chance to spend a year in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Finland, the Netherlands, or the United States.

Offer levels

A/AS level 300 points (3.5 A level equivalents) including BB at A level; IB 33 points (15 at Higher).

Anthropology with a Year in Japan, Biological Anthropology with a Year in the United States, Social Anthropology with a Year in Japan: A/AS level 340 points (AAB); IB 35 points (16 at Higher).

Archaeology & Anthropology: A/AS level 320 Points (3.5 A level equivalents) including AB at A level. Contact Classical and Archaeological Studies for further details.

Required subjects

L600, L610, L612: none.

L601, L603, L604: GCSE Maths grade C, GCSE Science grade B.

L620, L621, L622: A level science (Biology preferred) or Psychology grade B, GCSE Maths grade C.

L675: A level French grade B.

L676: A level German grade B (in exceptional cases a good GCSE in German plus experience or AS level).

L673, L674: GCSE grade B/C in a modern European language (other than English).

QL86: AB at A level including Classical Studies, Classical Civilisation or Archaeology grade B where taken.

We also consider students with alternative qualifications.

Terms and conditions: The University reserves the right to make variations to the content and delivery of courses and other services, or to discontinue courses and other services, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. If the University discontinues any course it will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative. To register for a programme of study, all students must agree to abide by the University Regulations (available online at www.kent.ac.uk/regulations/).

Data protection: for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons, the University needs to process information about its students. Full registration as a student of the University is subject to your consent to process such information.



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