The Sociology and Anthropology Department provides students with intellectual tools for understanding contemporary and historical cultural patterns and social issues such as globalization, nationalism, racism, sexism, embodiment, and the complex layering of inequalities in everyday life. These two disciplines approach the study of social life from different avenues, each bringing a set of separate and overlapping analytical and research tools to intellectual tasks that are complementary and synergistic. Our students seek knowledge about societies of the world and the social dynamics within them. To that end, our majors each conduct independent projects based on primary research and/or fieldwork during their senior year.

Sociology and Anthropology analyze experiences at the level of the individual or the group and connect them to larger social dynamics. The disciplines illustrate how matters that are often perceived as “private troubles” are actually consequences of cultural categories and social structures, including those that appear and feel natural and inevitable. Among the goals of Sociology and Anthropology are to acquire knowledge about different social groups and culture systems and to engage critically with the complexities of social life.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology offers a Course Major, Honors Major and Minor, and several Special Majors, but no Course Minor.

Overview of Curriculum

Course majors are required to take eight units of work in the department; of the eight, five are assigned. Assigned courses include, “Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology,” (at least) one designated theory course, (at least) one designated methods course and a two-credit senior thesis.

Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology

This course offers a foundational introduction to the department’s two fields; anthropology and sociology. Taught by both a sociologist and an anthropologist, it provides a solid background to ongoing debates in the study of culture and society, highlighting the distinct but complementary theories and methods of the two disciplines. Throughout the course, we will examine fundamental theories and concepts of both sociologists and cultural anthropologists and how these have changed over time.

Application Process Notes for the Major or the Minor

Students intending to Major or Minor in Sociology/Anthropology must submit a Sophomore Paper application to the department office.

Course Major: Options, Requirements, and Acceptance Criteria

Applicants for the major normally have completed at least two courses in the department. Courses numbered SOAN 001 to 020 serve as points of entry for students wishing to begin work in the department and normally serve as prerequisites to higher-level work in the department (SOAN 021–099). (Some higher courses may, however, with permission of the instructor, be taken without prerequisite.) Seminars are numbered SOAN 100 to 199. For current
seminar listings, consult the Web site at http://www.swarthmore.edu/socanth, or contact the department administrative coordinator.

The applicant's performance in department courses is discussed during the application review process; we also consider carefully an applicant's potential for carrying out the department's senior thesis requirement. Please note that the Sociology and Anthropology Department does not offer a Course Minor.

(Note: Course labeling within each of the three tiers of offerings—introductory courses [ANTH/SOCI/SOAN 001-019], regular courses [ANTH/SOCI/SOAN 020-099] and seminars [ANTH/SOCI/SOAN 100-199]—reflect internal departmental codes rather than levels of advancement or particular research areas. Please consult the listings for prerequisites particular to each course.)

**Requirements for the Graduating Class of 2015 and 2016**

Course majors in the department are required to take eight units of work in the department; of the eight, five are assigned. Assigned courses include the course, “Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology,” (at least) one designated theory course, (at least) one designated methods course and a two-credit senior thesis.

**Acceptance Criteria**

For course majors, the department usually looks for at least a C average overall and at least a C average for work in the department.

**Sociology Minor: Options, Requirements, and Acceptance Criteria**

Sociology and Anthropology Department does not offer a course minor.

**Honors Major: Options, Requirements, and Acceptance Criteria**

**Requirements**

Students seeking to do an honors major are required to complete at least nine ANTH or SOAN credits, five of which are assigned: “Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology,” (at least) one designated theory course, (at least) one designated methods course and a two-credit honors senior thesis. In addition, two – 2 credit preparations may be seminars, or, with permission, a course plus attachment, or paired upper-level courses, or off campus study.

Honors preparations include:

1. Three honors preparations in Sociology and Anthropology, of which one must be a double credit thesis. The other two may be a seminar, course plus attachment, paired upper level courses, or in special circumstances, off campus study. The latter three forms of preparation must have the advance approval of the supervising faculty member and of the department.
2. For thesis preparations: the thesis will be sent (the last day of April in your senior year) to and read by an external examiner, who will also administer an oral exam. These will be the bases for the examiner's evaluation of the thesis.
3. For non-thesis preparations: evaluations will be in the form of written assignments or examinations given by the external examiners and completed by honors students at the end of the senior year. External examiners will also administer oral examinations.

**Acceptance Criteria**

Applicants for the Honors Program (Majors and Minors) will usually be expected to have completed at least two courses in the department outside the honors preparations, to have at least a B average overall and grades of at least B for work taken in the department.

*The department will evaluate the progress of students writing Senior Honor Thesis before the end of November. If progress is deemed inadequate, the student will be asked to withdraw from Honors.*

**Honors Preparation with Attachments**

Students wishing to prepare for honors through a course plus an attachment must obtain permission from the instructor. Honors preparation will consist of the following materials: a) the syllabus for the course. b) the syllabus for the attachment, and c) written materials as requested by the instructor. The syllabus for the class and for the
attachment, plus the written materials, if any will be forwarded to the external examiner. The external examiner will be asked to prepare a written examination based on the material as a unified whole. An oral examination will follow.

**Honors and Off-Campus Study**

There are a number of ways in which off-campus study can be either integral or complementary to a major in Sociology and Anthropology. These include, but are not restricted to, the development of an honors preparation from work abroad and preparation for the senior thesis. To explore off-campus study possibilities, students must consult with the Chair of the department.

Students who contemplate basing an honors preparation on off-campus study work must seek the department's conditional approval for this, before undertaking off-campus study. Upon returning from abroad, students must request departmental approval of the honors preparation based on work done abroad. To do this, students must submit to the department all materials done abroad, including syllabi and written work, which are intended to be part of the honors preparation. Upon review of these materials, the department will notify the student as to whether or not the proposed honors preparation is approved. Students should expect approval of only one honors preparation which includes off-campus study.

**Honors Minor: Options, Requirements, and Acceptance Criteria**

Students seeking to do an Honors minor normally complete at least five SOAN credits, three of which are assigned: “Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology,” (at least) one designated theory course, (at least) one designated methods course.

Minors in the Honors Program must complete one – two credit preparation: a seminar or a thesis, a class with an attachment, or with permission paired courses.

The Honors Minor preparations include:

1. One honors preparation in SOAN.
2. Depending on the format of the presentation, the examiner will receive the materials described in (2) and (3), above. The honors minor student's work for this preparation will be similar to the honors major student's work.

**Requirements**

Applicants for the Honors Program (Majors and Minors) will usually be expected to have completed at least two courses in the department outside the honors preparations, to have at least a B average overall and grades of at least B for work taken in the department.

*The department will evaluate the progress of students writing Senior Honor Thesis before the end of November. If progress is deemed inadequate, the student will be asked to withdraw from Honors.*

**Acceptance Criteria**

Applicants for the Honors Program (Majors and Minors) will usually be expected to have completed at least two courses in the department outside the honors preparations, to have at least a B average overall and grades of at least B for work taken in the department.

**Special Major: Options, Requirements, and Acceptance Criteria**

Most Special Majors need to be anchored in a home department. When a student anchors their special major in the department of Sociology and Anthropology they must fulfill the requirements below. In many cases, the best option is pursuing a course major, since the department is not required to approve a Special Major application.

**Requirements**

---In SOAN, we normally require five SOAN credits to be a home department. One credit must be “Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology,” (at least) one designated theory course, (at least) one designated methods course and a two-credit senior thesis.

---Four credits from outside of the department must be included as part of the special major.

---In putting together the special major, it is advisable that the student only designate ten courses as part of the major. That way there will be no problems with the 20-course rule.

**Culminating Exercise**

All special majors must complete a two-credit senior thesis.
Acceptance Criteria

The department usually looks for at least a C average overall and at least a C average for work in the department.

Thesis / Culminating Exercise

The 2-credit senior thesis requirement, normally completed in the fall and spring semesters of the senior year, includes the Thesis Writers Masters Class and a thesis tutorial in which the student works closely with a faculty adviser.

AP-IB Credit

Considered on a case-by-case basis for majors and minors.

Transfer Credit

Considered on a case-by-case basis for majors and minors.

Off Campus Study

Because of its strong cross-cultural and transnational orientations, the Department encourages students to study abroad. Anthropologists and sociologists greatly value engaging other societies and understanding different cultures. For many, off-campus study provides a basis for their senior thesis project (see the Department's homepage or a listing of students' projects). The senior thesis project allows students to develop their research interests through working directly with a faculty member. This combination of breadth of knowledge, global understanding, and independent research make Sociology and Anthropology an ideal liberal arts major.

Research and Service Learning Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to conduct original research with faculty – whose approaches run the gamut from ethnography to textual analysis to survey research. Students also explore the historical development of Sociology and Anthropology. Research design, qualitative research, and statistical analysis are an important component of many academic programs, enabling students to undertake rigorous research projects and best analyze, interpret, and communicate their findings. The curriculum also provides opportunities for students to learn techniques to creatively convey their work through photography and documentary films.

Experiential learning is an important component of much work in Sociology and Anthropology. Our department strongly supports participation in study abroad as well as work in the field. For many students, these experiences challenge them to ask questions that eventually serve as foundation of their senior thesis project. Summer funding opportunities exist and are particularly relevant for juniors planning research towards their senior thesis projects. Study aboard and fieldwork provide an opportunity for students to develop contacts and gain rapport within their eventual research setting. Funding is available from the department and the College to support students in their pursuit of these experiences.

The Sociology and Anthropology Department emphasizes independent research. We prepare students to conduct research on primary and secondary documents as well as to conduct interviews, engage in participant observation, organize focus groups, administer surveys, and produce ethnographic films. By senior year, our students are ready to write a senior thesis that is not only based on library research but also in real-world experience. Recent student research projects have focused on issues such as alternative development programs in Latin America, immigration policies in the United States, and human rights in Africa. Independent research conducted by our students is one feature that consistently distinguishes them when they are pursuing jobs, fellowships, or graduate school admission.

Summer Opportunities

Grants from a variety of college-administered sources are available to support research by students during the summer. Please have a look at our online website: http://www.swarthmore.edu/x8583.xml about our extensive and generous funds for travel, research, internships, and faculty/student collaboration.

We encourage our juniors to explore these possibilities. Each year for the past several years, some of our majors have been awarded these grants and, in most cases, the summer research done under their auspices has been the basis for fine senior theses.
Teaching Certification

Each year, in conjunction with Education Studies, a number of our majors seek a teacher’s certification. Students contemplating teacher certification would normally schedule their program in a semester, which does not conflict with their senior thesis. Such programs should be developed in close consultation with advisors in the Education Program.

Life After Swarthmore

Our graduates have the tools to analyze the many sociological and anthropological issues they have studied at Swarthmore in their careers and/or further education. Career paths include work in either anthropology or sociology.

Alumni reflections:

Gil Kemp ’72
Scarsdale, N.Y.
President, Home Decorator’s Collections

…[T]he insight into people and culture and the general analytical skills I learned from my Swarthmore professors has been the foundation of a satisfying and stimulating business career that has permitted me to serve millions of American consumers. I majored in sociology and anthropology because learning about people and their behavior fascinated me then, and it continues to be the bedrock of my career.”

Karen Strier ’80
Madison, Wis.
Hilldale Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin - Madison

“The Swarthmore faculty provided great advice and guidance that helped me articulate my interests in biology, psychology, and anthropology. They were flexible and supportive of my study-abroad program, in which I conducted a field study of wild baboons in Kenya. Ultimately, I merged in interests into a career as a biological anthropologist studying wild primates.”

Laurie Fitzmaurice ’93
San Diego, Calif.
Commercial development manager, Sempra Pipelines and Storage

“The department’s open-minded approach and inquisitive nature enabled me to combine my interests in culture and literature. I spent six months in Chile, interviewing women writers. The Sociology and Anthropology Department’s ability to see across disciplines distinguishes it from the other academic areas and represents a tremendous strong point.”

Mufaddal Dahodwala ’08
Cherry Hill, N.J.
Student, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

“The Sociology and Anthropology department embodied what I wanted to get out of my Swarthmore education. Differing perspectives were not only respected, but encouraged – this really pushed my intellectual limits and made me better for it. My thesis provided the ultimate test of what I had learned: not just in terms of social theory but also in the ability to take an event or argument, break it apart into several pieces, analyze them, and then make my own suggestions for how to improve it. I know I will carry those skills to my career as a physician.”
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
COURSES SCHEDULED TO BE OFFERED FALL ‘14 TO SPRING ’16

This list is accurate as of 09/29/14 Changes will undoubtedly occur, particularly to the courses listed for 2015-2016 as leave scheduling, staffing, and curricular decisions are made. Check the bulletin boards adjacent to the department offices for updated lists or the WWW at http://www.swarthmore.edu/academics/sociology-and-anthropology.xml.

During the academic year 2014-15, Professor Schuetze will be on leave Fall 2014 & Spring 2015

**Fall 2014**

**Courses:**
- ANTH 001D First-Year Seminar: Counterculture Fraga
- ANTH 002D First-Year Seminar: Culture and Gender (T) Nadkarni
- ANTH 020J Dance and Diaspora (W) Chakravorty
- ANTH 021D Anthropology of Art and Aesthetics Fraga
- ANTH 042D Political Anthropology (T) Nadkarni
- ANTH 080B Anthro Linguistics” Endanger Language Harrison
- SOCI 004B FYS: Intro Contemp Social Thought (T) Muñoz
- SOCI 006H Down but Not Out: The Social Problems of Philadelphia Viscelli
- SOCI 035C Social Movements and Nonviolent Power Smithey
- SOCI 036D Into the Field: Qualitative Methods Viscelli
- SOCI 038C Sociology of the Economic Life (T) Reay
- SOCI 040K Political Sociology: The Mafia and the State Johnson
- SOAN 001A Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology Ghannam/Willie-LeBreton
- SOAN 095 Independent Study Staff
- SOAN 096 Thesis* Staff
- SOAN 097 Thesis* (W) Staff
- SOAN 098 Thesis Writers Master Class * Willie-LeBreton

**Seminars/Tutorial:**
- ANTH 123 Culture, Power, Islam Ghannam
- SOAN 180 Honors Thesis Staff

**Spring 2015**

**Courses:**
- ANTH 002F Anthropology of Childhood and the Family Nadkarni
- ANTH 009C Cultures of the Middle East (W) Ghannam
- ANTH 040J Social Movements Latin America Gender and Queer Persp Machuca-Galvez
- ANTH 041C Visual Cultures of Mexico and Aztlán Fraga
- ANTH 049B Comparative Perspectives on the Body Ghannam
- ANTH 049BA Attachment: Comparative Perspectives on the Body Ghannam
- ANTH 072D Visual Anthropology (M) Nadkarni
- SOCI 006F Rich and Poor Viscelli
- SOCI 007B Intro to Race and Ethnicity in the United States (T) Johnson
- SOCI 010J War, Sport and the Construction of Masculine Identity Mullan
- SOCI 024C Latin American Society Through Its Novel Muñoz
- SOCI 028E Methods of Social Exploration (M) Reay
- SOCI 036C Sociology of US Labor Movements Viscelli
- SOCI 040L Urban Crime and Punishment Johnson
- SOCI 044E Colloquium: Modern Social Theory (T) Muñoz
- SOAN 020B Urban Education Mayorga
- SOAN 095 Independent Study Staff
- SOAN 096 Thesis* Staff
- SOAN 097 Thesis* (W) Staff

**Seminars/Tutorial:**
- SOCI 127 Race Theories Willie-LeBreton
- SOAN 180 Honors Thesis Staff
Additional courses will be offered for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 by the end of Spring 2015. Please check with the department office or check our web site [http://www.swarthmore.edu/academics/sociology-and-anthropology.xml](http://www.swarthmore.edu/academics/sociology-and-anthropology.xml) for updates.

During the academic year 2015-16, Professor Ghannam, Smithey and Nadkarni expect to be on leave for one or both semesters.

**Fall 2015**

**Courses:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 021D</td>
<td>Anthropology of Art and Aesthetics</td>
<td>Fraga</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 023C</td>
<td>Anthropological Perspectives on Conservation</td>
<td>Schuetze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 043 E</td>
<td>Culture, Illness and Health</td>
<td>Schuetze</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 051B</td>
<td>Drugs and Governance in the Americas</td>
<td>Fraga</td>
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<td>SOCI 004B</td>
<td>FYS: Intro to Contemporary Social Thought</td>
<td>Muñoz</td>
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<td>SOCI 025B</td>
<td>Transforming Intractable Conflict</td>
<td>Smithey</td>
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<td>SOCI 044E</td>
<td>Colloquium: Modern Social Theory (T)</td>
<td>Muñoz</td>
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<td>SOAN 001A</td>
<td>Introduction to Anthropology and Sociology</td>
<td>Schuetze/Willie-LeBreton</td>
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<td>SOAN 095</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOAN 096</td>
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<td>SOAN 097</td>
<td>Thesis* (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOAN 098</td>
<td>Thesis Writers Master Class *</td>
<td>Willie-LeBreton</td>
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**Seminars/Tutorial:**

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<tr>
<td>SOAN 180</td>
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**Spring 2016**

**Courses:**

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<tr>
<td>ANTH 003G</td>
<td>FYS: Development and its Discontents</td>
<td>Schuetze</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 009C</td>
<td>Cultures of the Middle East (W)</td>
<td>Ghannam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 041C</td>
<td>Visual Cultures of Mexico and Aztlán</td>
<td>Fraga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 043F</td>
<td>Culture, Power, and Religion in Africa</td>
<td>Schuetze (overload)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 007B</td>
<td>Intro to Race and Ethnicity in the United States (T)</td>
<td>Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Latin American Society Through Its Novel</td>
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<td>Colloquium: Contemporary Social Theory (T)</td>
<td>Muñoz</td>
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<td>SOAN 020B</td>
<td>Urban Education (T)</td>
<td>Jones-Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOAN 096</td>
<td>Thesis *</td>
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<td>Thesis * (W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 116</td>
<td>Anthropology of Capitalism</td>
<td>Fraga</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOAN 180</td>
<td>Honors Thesis</td>
<td>Staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Notes:**

* = Required course, T = Theory Course, M= Methods Course, W= Writing Course

Updated 9/29/14 11:46 AM