



# Anthropology

**The Department of Anthropology spans the fields of biological anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.** We ask how as a species we got our two legs and big brain that distinguish us from other primates, and why—despite our unity as a species—we live in such diverse yet interdependent societies with often contrasting, if not contrarian, views of the world and ways of living within it. Anthropology courses focus on human differences that make a difference—food, work, technology, language, community, history, identity, religion, health, politics, environment—then address how and why these make the differences they do. We treat human differences as both commonly derived adaptations of a behaviorally flexible species and cultural truths that demand mutual understanding and engagement. The Department sponsors a study abroad program in New Zealand and supports faculty-directly student research with the Claire Garber Goodman Fund.

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# Economics

**Economics provides a framework for understanding human behavior in the face of choices at an individual, organizational, national, or even a global level. Though economics is often associated with business and finance, it has been influential in addressing a much broader range of questions.** What is the impact of immigration and trade on local economies? Do pre-school programs help children succeed in school? How long should patents and copyrights last? Does the US spend too much (or too little) on health care? Why are some nations more prosperous than others?

The Economics Department offers courses in an array of topic areas including international development, business strategy, finance, labor economics, government taxation and spending, international trade, and healthcare markets. The curriculum emphasizes applied statistical work (econometrics) in all of these topic areas. Economics majors learn to ask clear questions and work with large data sets to provide rigorous answers with a strong emphasis on distinguishing causation from correlation.

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# Education

**Dartmouth has a unique team of Education scholars who conduct basic research in the areas of reading development, math and science anxiety remediation, learning and reasoning differences in individuals, learning and memory, and poverty and learning.** Research evidence from these domains is producing a better understanding of what powerful learning environments look like as well as the consequences of uninformed instructional interventions. Thanks to this kind of research, policymakers and practitioners can begin to base their decisions about educational practices and institutions on empirical evidence rather than opinions, fashions, and ideologies. Critical national education issues need new strategies and approaches, challenges you will discuss and think about in your Education coursework.

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# Geography

**Geography is among the most interdisciplinary of disciplines. It spans the social and natural sciences, examining the many ways that people relate to and transform places and physical environments.** Our faculty members' specialties include international development, urban studies, food politics, globalization, global health, race and immigration, geopolitics, climate change, water resources, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). All the faculty engage actively in research, whether locally or overseas, and we strongly encourage our students to get involved with hands-on research activities. Geography majors graduate with a unique perspective on the world and are well-equipped for careers in fields ranging from business and law to journalism, urban planning, and environmental management. Most of our classes have enrollments of 25 or less, and most are open to and indeed welcome first-year students.

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# Government

**Welcome to Dartmouth! Aristotle described political science as the overarching science, arguing that it helps us understand who we are as human beings and how we can live happy and productive lives in communities.** Government is an intellectually diverse department where students can study philosophy, international relations, U.S. government, and politics in every region of the world. Political scientists use a wide range of analytical tools, including statistics, field work, experiments, interviews, public opinion surveys, historical analysis, game theory, legal theory, and much more, to understand enduring questions as well as current events. The diverse skills that students acquire in the Department prepare them for graduate and law school, employment in the public and private sector, and life as informed and productive citizens.

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# History

**Why History? Founded in 1894, the History Department has long offered one of the most popular majors and course selections in the undergraduate College.** While relatively few students come to Dartmouth intending to concentrate in History, the stimulating experience they have in the History courses they encounter translates into healthy enrollments and a major that consistently hovers among the most popular at Dartmouth. The perspective of History has practical use as a mode of thinking and inquiring with everyday applications. The things historians do — in exploring the complex relationships between causes and consequences, in adducing explanations that best fit the evidence, in constructing and articulating nuanced arguments—not only can have enormous importance in one’s daily life, but also in whatever world of practical affairs one happens to inhabit. Students necessarily develop skills of critical thinking and analysis that include awareness of sources, contexts, interrelations and interactions, and comparisons and contingency.

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# Public Policy

**The Public Policy Minor allows students to learn about and participate in policymaking that makes a difference in the world.** Intentionally flexible and broad in scope, the minor is open to undergraduates from all majors, and draws faculty from across the social sciences and interdisciplinary programs. Additionally, distinguished guest scholars and policymakers offer their perspectives during classroom visits, seminars, and dinner discussions.

Undergraduates who minor in public policy describe it as the perfect way to better understand how policy affects all aspects of society, while at the same time pursue a course of study that suits their specific interests in health, energy, international relations, social justice, domestic economy, poverty, gender issues, urban development, law, journalism, education, or the environment. The experiential learning component of each public policy course prepares students to think critically, collaborate in teams, conduct policy research, work with policymakers, and effectively lead policy initiatives. Students learn the process of developing and applying solutions to public policy challenges both domestically and abroad, a practice important to cultivating civically engaged, global leaders.

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# Sociology

**Sociology examines the social relations that shape individual behavior, how we connect with one another, and how individuals and groups make meaningful social change.** The Department of Sociology at Dartmouth is staffed by active scholar-teachers working at the forefront of the field. Our faculty teach and do research on some of the most pressing issues of our time, including income inequality, residential segregation, health disparities, race relations, education, work-family balance, globalization, democratization, and more. When you take courses in Dartmouth's Sociology Department, you'll be introduced to a unique way of asking questions, examining problems, and viewing the world. Dartmouth's Department of Sociology is about learning analytical thinking in the best tradition of the liberal arts.

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**For information on the Social Science department not included in this newsletter, please see below:**

**Psychological and Brain Sciences:** <http://pbs.dartmouth.edu/undergraduate/neuroscience>.