

ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY

ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION



"Through coursework, internships, and research, I now know what constitutes society and the role individuals and communities play in defining that society. Understanding how race, class, and gender influence every profession and interaction has taught me how to make more meaningful contributions within and beyond Centre."

CHRISTINA COLÓN

Centre Class of 2017

Anthropology/Sociology Major

ANTHROPOLOGY ASKS, WHAT SHAPES US AS HUMANS? HOW DOES HUMAN EVOLUTION INTERSECT WITH CULTURE? HOW ARE WE SIMILAR TO AND DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CREATURES? SOCIOLOGY ASKS, HOW DOES SOCIAL STRUCTURE SHAPE CULTURE? HOW DO WE ACHIEVE SOCIAL CONTROL? WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATURE AND NURTURE IN PATTERNS OF SOCIAL INTERACTION? BOTH DISCIPLINES ASK WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN.

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN LIFE SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES, REVEALING THE BIOCULTURAL AND SOCIOCULTURAL NATURE OF SO MUCH OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE. THEY PROVIDE A UNIFYING FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE TOTALITY OF THE HUMAN CONDITION AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SERVICE IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY.

THE MAJOR

The anthropology and sociology program is at the forefront of interdisciplinary and global studies at Centre. We offer students a range of choices in planning their anthropology/sociology major. The program includes a set of core courses in anthropological and sociological research methods and theoretical perspectives, culminating in an advanced seminar. In addition, majors are able to design the primary portion of their major according to their specific interests, with possibilities

including concentrations in archaeology, sociology of health and illness, ecological anthropology, cultural anthropology, social stratification, sociology of family, sociology of religion, and sustainable communities. We also offer individualized minors in anthropology and sociology.

WORLD-WIDE, OFF-CAMPUS STUDY

Centre has several important campus facilities for studying anthropology and sociology. Our Social Science Laboratory includes the major statistical software and an extensive archive of real cross-cultural, national, and international dataset. There is a Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing mini-lab. The program maintains a growing collection of fossil hominid and comparative casts.

Many of Centre's study-abroad and internship opportunities relate directly to anthropology and sociology. We routinely offer on-site field and academic courses that focus on archaeology and ethnology in both the Old and New Worlds, as well as concentrating on cultural history, art and culture, or comparative social structure and development around the world. CentreTerm courses have given our students opportunities to travel and study on-site throughout Europe, and in Australia, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Samoa, South Africa, Thailand, and Turkey, among other locales. Similarly, our full semester programs in London, Strasbourg, and particularly in Mérida, often feature anthropology and sociology studies.

Anthropology and sociology majors and minors have completed collaborative research with faculty in a variety of settings. The sites and subjects have included the Yucatán

peninsula and the Chiapan highlands of Mexico; the primate center at the Louisville Zoo; an archeological dig in Ventanillas, Peru; a women's prison in Ecuador; an archaeological dig at Sepphoris, in Israel; rural and urban sites in Cuba, Ecuador, Morocco, Portugal, and Spain; as well as studies in the United States of social class in family life, the Presbyterian Church, Centre College itself, and an annual Theory Camp. Many of the faculty-student collaborations have resulted in major research papers, and much of the work has led to national and regional presentations and publications.

INTERNSHIPS

Our students have participated in a variety of internships for academic credit that have enhanced their experience and future employability. Student internships have included Boyle County Family Court, International Paper, Sunrise Children's Home, underwater archeology at the Naval History and Heritage Command, positions with Kentucky Educational Television, a forensic anthropology office, a hospice facility, Kentucky School for the Deaf with the Shepherd Consortium for Poverty Studies at sites all over the U.S., and curatorial as well as field work for survey archeological firms. Our new internship program in Merida has offered our students internships ranging from museum work to advertising and market research.

CAREERS

Our anthropology and sociology program provides students with a strong foundation in the liberal arts. The program encourages students to examine their physical, cultural, and social worlds more critically, and offers students theoretical and methodological tools for examining our world.

Students from our program have gone on to a variety of graduate programs and careers. Current anthropology and sociology graduates are in master's and doctoral programs in anthropology, sociology, social psychology, criminology, historic preservation, ancient religions, clinical psychology, social work, public health, family studies, journalism, and school psychology, as well as in law and medical schools. Recent graduates have jobs in social work, fine arts, university teaching, computer services, the Peace Corps, secondary and elementary school teaching, museum work, law, medicine, market research, counseling psychology, dentistry, advertising, and both local and federal government agencies, including the F.B.I.

FACULTY

ANDREA ABRAMS, Associate Professor of Anthropology (B.A., Agnes Scott College; Ph.D., Emory University). Current interests: constructions of racial identity and blackness, the intersections of gender and national identity, and application of anthropological insight in the non-profit and service sphere.

KIYONA BREWSTER, Assistant Professor of Sociology (B.S., Bennett College for Women; M.A., University of Connecticut; M.A., Ph.D., Northwestern University). Current interests: race

and ethnicity, gender, qualitative methods, family studies, and religion.

ROBYN CUTRIGHT, Charles T. Hazelrigg Associate Professor of Anthropology (B.A., Lawrence University; Ph.D., University of Pittsburgh). Current interests: the archaeology of households, food, and gender.

A. ENDRE NYERGES, Professor of Anthropology (B.S., Earlham College; Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania). Current interests: sub-Saharan Africa, brain anatomy and evolution, ecological anthropology, environmental change monitoring, tropical deforestation, and human evolution.

JAMIE SHENTON, Assistant Professor of Anthropology (B.A., Centre College; M.A., Ph.D., Vanderbilt University). Current interests: medical anthropology, gender and sexuality, ethnographic methods, and comparative perspectives on U.S. and world cultures, especially Latin America.

WILLIAM "BEAU" WESTON, John M. and Louise Van Winkle Professor of Sociology (B.A., Swarthmore College; Ph.D., Yale University). Current interests: the sociology of happiness, the sociology of religion, social theory, sociology of family life, and social stratification.

KAELYN WILES, Assistant Professor of Sociology (B.A., Oberlin College; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison). Current interests: environmental sustainability, medical sociology, social justice, and political sociology.

VISIT CENTRE

The best way to judge Centre is to tour the campus, talk with the professors and students, attend a class, and spend the night in a residence hall. We invite you to visit and encourage you to contact the Admission Office if you have any questions.

FOR FURTHER INFO ABOUT THE ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM AT CENTRE, CONTACT:

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ANTHROPOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY WEB PAGE

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