Proposal to change requirements for the Anthropology Major

The Department of Anthropology would like to make a small but significant change to the requirements for the major. At present, the major requires all four introductory surveys covering the subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, biological/physical anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology). We would like to change this to three.

Rationale

The reasoning for this change is based on the following:

- The sense of the faculty is that the current requirement for four 100-level, introductory survey courses poses a heavy burden for anthropology majors, crowding out room in their course loads for upper division anthropology courses. To our knowledge, our major presently requires more 100-level surveys than any other department in A&S.
- The 4 survey course requirement has been difficult to fulfill given our current staffing (and the near-term outlook for our staffing), especially in light of our current lack of linguistic anthropology faculty.
- In cases in which the student has taken a 115 freshman writing seminar, the 4-survey requirement “crowds out” the 115 course from counting as credit toward the major.

Faculty vote tally

The faculty voted in favor of this proposal: 9 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions. Three faculty who were not present at the meeting did not vote.

If there are any questions or concerns about this proposal, do not hesitate to contact Steve Wernke, Director of Undergraduate Studies (Anthropology), at s.wernke@vanderbilt.edu

Best regards,

Beth Conklin
Chair

Steve Wernke
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Dear Michael,

Attached is a proposal to change a requirement in the Anthropology major. Attached are:

- A letter from the Chair and DUS explaining the rationale for this change, with the faculty vote tally.
- The existing catalog description of the major.
- The proposed new text, with redline edits.
- The new version of the catalog description, incorporating these edits.

If you need more information, please let me know.

Best wishes,
Beth Conklin
Program of Concentration in Anthropology
The major in anthropology requires completion of at least 30 credit hours of course work, as follows:

1. **Four** At least three 100-level surveys (chosen from Anthropology 101, 103, 104, and 105) covering the subfields of anthropology: cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology.

2. A minimum of three credit hours from each of the groups below:
   
   **Group I—Comparative Anthropology and Anthropological Theory:** 206, 223, 224, 226, 228, 240, 250, 260, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 284
   
   **Group II—Archaeology and Physical Anthropology:** 173, 207, 211, 212, 213, 216, 231, 246, 248, 254, 270, 271, 272, 280
   
   **Group III—Ethnography, Ethnohistory, and Linguistics:** 201, 203, 210, 214, 231, 247, 249, 259

3. A seminar on anthropological theory (206 or 284). The seminar may not also be used to count toward Group I credit above.

4. At least 18 credit hours of credit must be at the 200 level.

5. The remainder of the credit hours must be chosen from ANTH courses not already used to satisfy the requirements listed above.

5. With the approval of the student’s major adviser, a maximum of 3 credit hours of credit for a course taken in another department or program may be counted toward the major requirement. A variety of courses are possible, including but not limited to those listed below. In each case, the course must be relevant to the student’s program and the student must receive the approval of his or her major adviser the director of undergraduate studies.

- Biological Sciences 205; Classics 217; History 127, 249; History of Art 268; Human and Organizational Development 264; Mathematics 127a, 127b; Music Literature 160, 278; Religious Studies 130, 254; Sociology 201, 220, 230, 277, 279; Spanish 221.
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