REQUEST FOR ADDING, CHANGING, SUSPENDING OR DROPPING A GRADUATE CURRICULUM

Department  Geography & Anthropology
College  Humanities & Social Sciences
Name of Curriculum/Major  Master of Arts (M.A.) in Anthropology
Type of Degree  graduate
Date  March 3, 2017

ATTACH JUSTIFICATION for all actions: Use separate sheet
ATTACH RESPONSE or LETTER OF SUPPORT from any departments/schools affected [i.e. any department/school whose course(s) are to be added/dropped or any programs that seem duplicative.]

(See instructions and sample layout attached)

ACTION (check appropriate box):

(X) CHANGING: Regardless if all semesters of a curriculum are to be changed or only parts, the present and proposed General Catalog curriculum description should be attached on separate pages. On the Present curriculum description, use strikeout to identify deletions and on the Proposed curriculum description, highlight areas to identify additions. Additionally, include the expanded curriculum outline found in the departmental handbook and attach on separate pages.

SEE ATTACHED PAGES FOR NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING PRESENT AND PROPOSED CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS, EXPANDED CURRICULUM OUTLINE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATE MANUAL, AND ASSOCIATED JUSTIFICATION

APPROVALS:
Department Faculty Approval Date  February 17, 2017
College Faculty Approval Date  3-22-17

Department Chair’s Signature  2/17/17
College Dean’s Signature  9-4-17
Chair, FS C & C Committee  9/11/17

Academic Affairs Approval  9/18/17

College/Division/Department Contact:
(Please print name.)

Contact E-mail:
REQUEST FOR ADDING, CHANGING, SUSPENDING OR DROPPING A GRADUATE CURRICULUM

Department: Geography & Anthropology
College: Humanities & Social Sciences
Name of Curriculum/Major: Master of Arts (M.A.) in Anthropology
Type of Degree: graduate
Date: March 3, 2017

ATTACH JUSTIFICATION for all actions: Use separate sheet
ATTACH RESPONSE or LETTER OF SUPPORT from any departments/schools affected [i.e. any department/school whose course(s) are to be added/dropped or any programs that seem duplicative.]
(See instructions and sample layout attached)

ACTION (check appropriate box):

(X) CHANGING: Regardless if all semesters of a curriculum are to be changed or only parts, the present and proposed General Catalog curriculum description should be attached on separate pages. On the Present curriculum description, use strikeout to identify deletions and on the Proposed curriculum description, highlight areas to identify additions. Additionally, include the expanded curriculum outline found in the departmental handbook and attach on separate pages.

SEE ATTACHED PAGES FOR NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING PRESENT AND PROPOSED CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS, EXPANDED CURRICULUM OUTLINE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENTAL GRADUATE MANUAL, AND ASSOCIATED JUSTIFICATION

APPROVALS:
Department Faculty Approval Date: February 17, 2017
College Faculty Approval Date

[Signature]
Department Chair's Signature: 2/17/17
College Dean's Signature

Chair, FS C & C Committee: (Date)

College/Division/Department Contact: (Date)
(Please print name.)

Contact E-mail:

Michelle A. Massé 8/31/17
Dean of the Graduate School
PRESENT GENERAL CATALOG DESCRIPTION (deletions are strikethrough)

(AANTH)

Anthropology offers programs leading to the B.A., M.A., and PhD degrees in four major divisions of the field—archaeology, biological, cultural, and linguistic anthropology. Area expertise includes Latin America, the U.S. South and Gulf Coast, the Caribbean, and Africa. A minimum of 31 hours is required for the master’s degree. Of those 31, at least 6 hours are thesis hours (ANTH 8000) and 1 hour includes the completion of Introduction to Graduate Study (ANTH 7901). The remaining 24 hours of coursework include 12 hours (4 courses) at the 7000 level. Of those 12 hours, at least 6 hours (2 courses) must be earned in seminars. These seminars are generally taken within the department, but seminars can be taken in other departments, in consultation with the student’s major professor. The student must take each seminar from a different faculty member. Half the courses must be at the 7000-level or above, excluding thesis hours.

1. ANTH 7901 Introduction to Graduate Study (1)

2. ANTH 4086 History of Anthropological Theory (3) (or advanced theory course if equivalent already taken)

3. 3 of 4 required 4000-level courses (ANTH 4020, ANTH 4040, ANTH 4060, ANTH 4082)

4. 12 hours of 7000-level courses (two of these must be seminars)

5. Methods Course (selected in consultation with an adviser)

6. 6 hours of thesis research (ANTH 8000)
PROPOSED GENERAL CATALOG DESCRIPTION (changes/additions are highlighted)

(AANTH)

Anthropology offers programs leading to the B.A., M.A., and PhD degrees in four major divisions of the field—archaeology, biological, cultural, and linguistic anthropology. Area expertise includes Latin America, the U.S. South and Gulf Coast, the Caribbean, and Africa. A minimum of 31 hours is required for the master’s degree. Of those 31, at least 6 hours are thesis hours (ANTH 8000), and 1 hour includes the completion of Introduction to Graduate Study (ANTH 7901). The remaining 24 hours include: 3 required core courses (ANTH 4020, ANTH 4040, ANTH 4060), ANTH 7085 History of Anthropological Thought, 3 additional 7000-level courses (excluding ANTH 7085), and 1 elective course. At least 2 of the elective 7000-level courses must be ANTH seminars. The student must take each seminar from a different faculty member. Half the courses must be at the 7000-level or above, excluding thesis hours.

1. ANTH 7901 Introduction to Graduate Study (1)
2. 3 required core courses (ANTH 4020, ANTH 4040, ANTH 4060)
3. ANTH 7085 History of Anthropological Thought
4. 3 7000-level courses (excluding ANTH 7085) (at least 2 of the 7000-level courses must be ANTH seminars)
5. 1 elective course
6. 6 hours of thesis research (ANTH 8000)
Expanded Curriculum Outline from Departmental Graduate Manual

The Master’s Program in Anthropology

Summary of Anthropology Master’s Course Requirements

1. ANTH 7901 Introduction to Graduate Study (1)
2. 3 required core courses (ANTH 4020, ANTH 4040, ANTH 4060)
3. ANTH 7085 History of Anthropological Thought
4. 3 7000-level courses (excluding ANTH 7085) (at least 2 of the 7000-level courses must be ANTH seminars)
5. 1 elective course
6. 6 hours of thesis research (ANTH 8000)

Course Requirements—Master of Arts (M.A.) in Anthropology

A minimum of 31 hours is required for the master’s degree. Of those 31, at least 6 hours are thesis hours (ANTH 8000) and 1 hour includes the completion of Introduction to Graduate Study (ANTH 7901). The remaining 24 hours of course work include: 9 hours (3 courses) at the 4000-level (ANTH 4020 Method and Theory in Archaeology, ANTH 4040 Physical Anthropology, and ANTH 4060 Language and Culture), ANTH 7085 History of Anthropological Thought, 3 additional 7000-level seminars, and 1 elective course. Of those 3 elective 7000-level courses, at least 2 must be designated as ANTH seminars. The student must take each seminar from a different faculty member.

The program in anthropology emphasizes the four-field approach. Students gain a familiarity with the fundamentals of physical anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, and linguistics. ANTH 7901 must be taken the first semester it is offered. Most of the other required courses are offered on a two-year rotation and should also be taken at the first opportunity.

Students must pass all required 4000-level anthropology courses (4020, 4040, 4060) with at least a “B” grade. Students earning a “C” grade in any of these required courses must complete remedial work in that subfield as required by their thesis committee prior to graduation.

A language class is highly recommended, although not required for obtaining a M.A. degree in anthropology. If a student plans to conduct fieldwork and/or research in an area where English is not the native or primary language, they should consult with their major advisor about language study (see Form 6).

A thesis is required of all students in the master’s program. Students should identify a thesis project by the end of the 10th week of the second semester. Often ANTH 7999 (Independent Research) is taken during the second semester to prepare a thesis proposal and carry out background reading under the guidance of the major professor. Students should defend their thesis proposal by the end of their second semester.
Research with Human Subjects

Any research that may or does require the use of, or interaction with, human subjects requires approval or exemption by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Strict federal regulations and University policy govern the use of human subjects to protect their welfare, ensure their safety, and to ensure their documented informed consent is obtained.

All projects that use human subjects (including use of data or material from living individuals) in ALL research or experiments, OR as the object of projects or surveys, especially if they may result in publication in any form (including evaluative projects) must be approved or exempted in advance by the LSU Institutional Review Board (IRB).

Human subject welfare oversight is managed by IRB Chair Robert C. Mathews (131 David Boyd Hall, irb@lsu.edu, 578-8692). An application forms package may be downloaded from the Web and completed with your word processor: www.lsu.edu/irb. Further guidance is available there.

All Graduate students should plan to take the free, on-line web-based training course in research on human subjects. The web site is at: http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php. This course satisfies the NIH human subjects training requirement for obtaining Federal Funds. You will have the option of printing a certificate of completion from your computer upon completing the course.

The Thesis Proposal

During their second semester (or by completion of their 18th hour in the program), students develop their thesis proposal. Typically, students register for ANTH 7999 with their major professor in order to prepare a 5000-word thesis proposal (as detailed below) to submit to the anthropology faculty by the end of the 10th week of the semester. They will then defend their thesis proposal before their full thesis committee—and any other departmental faculty who wish to attend—by the end of the semester.

The 5000-word thesis proposal will, at the least, consist of a detailed description of and rationale for the proposed thesis research, a literature review, and discussion of research methods. Each student must provide both a paper copy and an electronic version (in a format acceptable to their committee) to all members of their committee. The proposal will be circulated to all members of the anthropology faculty for review and comment (an electronic version circulated by e-mail is sufficient). Faculty members may pass their questions and comments to any member of the student’s thesis committee and/or may be present at the proposal defense themselves. The student in consultation with their committee members will arrange the time and place of the thesis proposal defense.

At the conclusion of a successful thesis proposal defense, the student should submit Form 8 “Proposed Research” to the departmental Graduate Office. The form should be signed by all committee members and have a copy of the thesis proposal attached.
Justification:
The proposed changes are made to comply with the new requirements (effective Fall 2016) for all LSU Masters’ program to have half required courses at the 7000 level. At the moment, students enrolled in the MA Program in Anthropology have to take 34hrs in order to comply with these new requirements. The proposed changes aim at solving this problem, while still providing a solid background in the four subfields of Anthropology and giving students some choice in courses. Currently, we do not require all four subfields, but propose that students will be better prepared for doctoral programs, teaching Anthropology, or working in the private sector if they have courses in the four subfields. (For example, an MA with 18 grad credit hours in Anth is required in our dept to teach a summer/other course in Anthropology, which might mean the instructor is teaching a subfield for which they have not taken a graduate level course! The proposed change eliminates that possibility).

We propose to have one course in each of the four subfields of Anthropology required for all students: Anth 4020: Method and Theory in Archaeology; Anth 4040: Physical Anthropology; Anth 4060: Linguistic Anthropology; and Anth 4085 (proposed Anth 7085) History of Anthropology. One of the courses will be at the 7000-level (proposed change from Anth 4085 to Anth 7085). This course already is taught as a seminar and only grad students are taking the course, so it is an easy transition to make it a 7000 level course. Enrollment in Fall 2016 was 100% graduate students. The course also satisfies the subfield of Cultural Anthropology.

We propose to remove the requirement for a methods course for the following reasons: The list of courses currently approved to fulfill the methods requirement is long, making it a weak requirement. Faculty differ on their belief of the importance of a methods course, so we propose to leave the decision to the advice of the major professor to their student. Most importantly, removing the methods requirement provides some choice for students to take other courses of interest or importance to their research, particularly 4000-level courses offered each semester in a variety of areas in Anthropology.