

Rationale for Proposed Revisions in Anthropology Major

There are three proposed revisions of anthropology major program as follows:

1. To build a stronger foundation in anthropological theory in response to concerns raised in major assessment reports, we decided to **expand the existing theory course (ANT 210 History of Ethnological Theory) into two courses, ANT 210 in the fall term (renamed: Anthropological Theory, Part I) and ANT 211 (Anthropological Theory, Part II) in the spring term.** Both courses are now proposed to be required for anthropology majors. ANT 210 will focus on the intellectual and disciplinary origins of anthropology from antiquity through the 1950s. Why the 1950s cut-off date? In brief, a major set of revolutions in anthropological theory began in the 1960s amidst the broader post-modernist turn in the social sciences and humanities. These revolutions continue to animate the discipline of anthropology into the present day. The second theory course - ANT 211 - will focus on major anthropological theories, concepts, and debates from the 1960s onward. More specifically, ANT 211 will focus on a selected list of key concepts, terms, and themes that have framed key debates in anthropology post-1960.

To make the degree more coherent and cumulative, the key theories, concepts, and debates introduced in ANT 210 and 211 will be revisited in ANT 310 Research Methods and the Capstone course ANT 410 Contemporary Issues in Anthropology: History, Theory, Methods. We hope that after completing the theory sequence (ANT 210 & ANT 211), our majors will be better prepared for ANT 310 and ANT 410. Specifically, they should be able to apply, critique, and engage with relevant contemporary anthropological theories in preparing their research proposals, conducting independent research, and writing their capstone thesis. This adjusted two-theory course sequence will also appeal to students from other majors and interdisciplinary programs interested in exploring the intellectual and disciplinary origins of contemporary social science theory and modern ethnographic methods.

2. To keep the anthropology major requirements of 43 credits unchanged, **the elective requirements are adjusted from five courses (15 credits) to four courses (12 credits),** in view of the addition of ANT211 to core requirements.

3. **The elective requirements are changed from “the 300- or 400-level in Anthropology or CAS 444, under advisement” to “the 300- or 400-level in Anthropology or under advisement”** so as to provide students with more flexibility in selecting non-anthropology courses as equivalents of anthropology electives.

There are no changes in resources regarding the above revisions.

