

Sub Committee for Anthropology
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science Curriculum Development

Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology (Major/Minor)

Introduction:

Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts offers Anthropology as a major or minor subject that can be taken up by students during their time here. The Anthropology major consists of ten papers whereas the Anthropology minor consists of the first six papers.

These are:

1. What is Anthropology?
2. Biological/ Physical Anthropology
3. Socio-Cultural Anthropology 1
4. Socio-Cultural Anthropology 2
5. Introduction to Archaeology: Theory and Techniques
6. Anthropology Today: Its applications
7. The History of Anthropological Theory and Changing Ethnography
8. Human Biological Variation
9. Anthropology of Globalization, Development and Consequential Urbanization
10. Identity, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Fundamentalism

Name of Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major/ Minor Paper 1 - What is Anthropology?

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 3

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 2

Introduction:

This paper introduces the students to the subject of Anthropology and anthropologists, and their unique capacity and competence to study society in a holistic manner. It provides a basic understanding of the concepts that form the foundations of the discipline in its historical capacity, and the evolving perspectives due to changing global ideology.

This foundational paper outlines the basic features of the five fields of anthropology, which together intend to analyze human society, the individuals that construct it, the culture that sustains it, and the ideology and symbolism that guide it. The aim of this paper is to expose the students to the different aspects of the discipline which will be dealt with in the duration of the course.

Name of Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major/ Minor Paper 2 - Biological / Physical Anthropology

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 4

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 2

Introduction:

This paper introduces students to the concepts involved in the biological evolution of humans and closely-related species, and the various theories put forth to understand human evolution. Thus, anthropology draws heavily from various branches of science such as biology, evolution, genetics, molecular biology, geology etc. This paper aims to explain variation in contemporary human populations and modes of physiological adaptations, and reactions to different physical environments, along with understanding the evolution of our species. Students will be introduced to the changing paradigms of racial studies, biological basis of life, and principles of human genetics.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major/ Minor Paper 3 - Socio-Cultural Anthropology 1

(UG/PG): UG , Semester 5

Number of Credits: 4 (60 hours)

Level: 3

Introduction:

Anthropology, being the ‘Study of Mankind’, is essentially the understanding of what constitutes society in terms of identity, experiences with the environment, and relations with other human beings.

The course attempts to bring forth the core institutions of human societies,, and aims to understand why we do what we do. In essence, it is the study of people as social and cultural beings.

Every phenomenon has more than one player and participant, and this course will guide the students towards this imperative understanding. It enables them to question and challenge the often deeply-rooted understandings of people and cultures, through multiple and holistic perspectives. Throughout the course, the students are introduced to the unequal power dynamics that play the most important role in today’s globalised world.

The students will study the various phenomena that constitute our society today, through essentially similar yet contrastingly diverse construction of social systems. This will be done through case studies from around the world, that enforce all the concepts outlined above.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major/ Minor Paper 4 - Socio-Cultural Anthropology 2

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 6

Number of Credits: 4

Level: 3

Introduction:

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Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major/ Minor Paper 5 - Introduction to Archaeology: Theory and Techniques

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 7

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 3

Introduction:

Archaeology excavates, describes, reconstructs and interprets ancient human societies, cultural patterns and human behavior through material remains including pottery, bones, structural evidences etc. Archaeology is the study of the human past from its very evolutionary history, to the contemporary life 'as recent as yesterday'.

Archaeology helps unearth hard facts about the past, without the baggage of prejudiced history and lopsided theoretical perspective. It helps to understand where history fails, in the absence of written records and available time brackets, and provides an evolutionary framework for understanding human cultural adaptations.

As part of historiography, archaeology provides data for building a culture's historical tradition and culture, in all its varied chronological and spatial dimensions. This course will help students gauge the interdisciplinary perspective of human development till the present.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major/ Minor Paper 6 - Anthropology Today: Its applications

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 8

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 3

Introduction:

Applied Anthropology is the application of the knowledge base and research skills of Anthropology to contemporary issues and problems faced by human societies and communities. It draws upon each branch of Anthropology, and thus, anthropological knowledge can be applied to every facet of society.

This course will discuss the changing nature of the application of anthropological knowledge through the 20th century to the present, and provide an insight into the dilemmas of ethical implications and the anthropological perspective. It will survey the field of activity that an anthropologist is involved in, through individual/group study of real life situations. It includes identifying contemporary situations that can, and should involve anthropology within its working principle, and then studying them in detail so as to present the problem beyond research, to the practical workings that would benefit people.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major Paper 7 - The History of Anthropological Theory and Changing Ethnography

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 5

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 3

Introduction:

A need to comprehend or engage in writings about the 'other' has been a preoccupation of civilized societies. Anthropology as a discipline has journeyed through contrasting paradigms with the 'other' to 'one's own community' or the 'global culture'. This course will engage in analyzing the original works that have contributed to anthropological theory and history, from the mid 19th century onwards. The course is not an attempt to look at the people and cultures studied in these texts. Instead, the emphasis will be on comprehending the textual data that will reveal the theoretical orientations of the authors who worked on these texts, and the emerging history and paradigm shifts in anthropology.

Through anthropologies changing and emerging history, the course will also study the changing trends in the writing of anthropology, through contemporary studies of issues that emerge out of the changing global structure. There is an increasing need for the discipline to engage itself with changing times in developed and developing countries for its new identity, free of the colonial baggage.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major Paper 8 - Human Biological Variation

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 6

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 4

Introduction:

People are biologically very diverse, and often, these differences are thought of in terms of racial or ethnic groups. Human variation may be visible (e.g. differences in skin color, hair form, and nose shape), or invisible (biochemical differences, e.g. blood group antigens, serum proteins, and molecular traits). Anthropologists have studied these variations for years, and have attempted to understand why populations have different traits, or the same traits with different frequencies.

A major goal in studying human diversity, is to determine the genetic similarity or dissimilarity between populations. The unique approach that anthropology takes in the study of human diversity, is to focus on understanding, studying, and explaining variation between human populations by applying evolutionary theory. We try to understand how these differences help humans adapt to varying environments, rather than to simply document differences in order to create racial groups.

The course provides the basics of population genetics, genetic polymorphism, and the important genetic markers in human populations, and their biological consequences and consanguinity.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major Paper 9 - Anthropology of Globalization, Development and Consequential Urbanization

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 7

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 4

Introduction:

This course in anthropology has interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives with a focus on human society as a participant or recipient in these processes. It aims to study and analyse the causes, effects, and controversies surrounding the development and globalisation. Since the process is too broad to be covered in totality, the course will focus on and evaluate issues including urbanization, migration, and displacement, individual identity, ethnicity, and fundamentalism.

This course informs students about the ways in which anthropology can contribute to the understanding of ‘development’ and ‘globalization’, and the basic human problems that seem to have evolved from these processes. The aim is to find solutions, and to address the issues at hand, at local and global levels.

Name of the Institute: Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts

Course Name: Anthropology Major Paper 10 - Identity, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Fundamentalism

(UG/PG): UG, Semester 8

Number of Credits: 4 (60 Hours)

Level: 3

Introduction:

Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Fundamentalism, all integrate with identities in varied relations. These identities need to be understood for the sustenance of the individual, and group cohesion in the contemporary global culture. The need to interact at multiple levels for maximum output in this global economy, causes these multiple identities to engage in dialogue. The course will enable students to identify this exchange, in an effort to realize the associated and contentious issues.

The concepts discussed have been part of the learning process through the course. In this unit, they will be clearly outlined with the existent controversies that go hand in hand with these established ideas in various disciplines.