

# Anthropology

Anthropology seeks to understand and interpret the global range of human experience. The anthropological imagination draws upon biological, linguistic, historical and comparative perspectives in creating a systematic vision of how societies are patterned and how culture is experienced. The anthropology program at Illinois Wesleyan offers exposure to the subdisciplines of the field, including the study of contemporary peoples (cultural anthropology), language and communication (linguistics), evolution and human variation (physical anthropology) and archaeology.

## Why Anthropology at Illinois Wesleyan?

- The major in anthropology is designed to offer students a holistic understanding of culture, society, and human diversity.
- Anthropology prepares students to understand and work within an increasingly multicultural world.
- Students receive a broad exposure to the field of anthropology, including coursework related to the subdisciplines of cultural anthropology, physical anthropology, linguistics and archaeology.
- Students at IWU are provided with a variety of opportunities to develop the fundamental field research skills used by professional anthropologists.
- IWU anthropology majors and minors complete both written and visual ethnographies (photo-essays and ethnographic films) that they produce themselves.
- IWU faculty advise students in sessions that are tailored to student interests, sharing strategies for applying to graduate school in anthropology and discussing anthropology-related career options.
- Many programs of study at Illinois Wesleyan can be enhanced by the addition of a minor or major in anthropology, including areas such as international studies, history, biology, business, religion, and any of the foreign languages.

## Learning from a Quality Faculty



- **Charles Springwood**, *Professor of Anthropology Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*  
A cultural anthropologist whose research areas of interest include semiotics, race, gender, visual culture, colonialism, ethnographic methods, sport and alcohol usage. He has conducted research in Japan, Mexico and the United States. The author or co-author of four books, including *Beyond the Cheers: Race as Spectacle in College Sport* (Sunny Press) and an edited volume, *Open Fire: Understanding Global Gun Cultures* (Berg).

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## A Sampling of Courses Offered by Anthropology:

Anthropology of Theatre, Performance, and Spectacle  
Birthing, Healing and Dying  
Consuming Passions: The Anthropology of Food  
Cultural Anthropology  
Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective  
Human Origins  
Introduction to Archaeology  
Language, Communication, and Culture  
Race, Racism, and Anthropology  
Self and Society in Japan  
Special Topics: Forensic Anthropology, Primates  
Visual and Ethnographic Methods

## Recent May Term Courses in Anthropology:

African Expressive Arts  
Forensic Anthropology  
Museums, Representation, & Cultural Property  
Primates  
World Music



“The anthropology curriculum at IWU offers courses that focus on how people around the world define and actualize concepts such as gender, race,

- **Rebecca Gearhart**, *Chair of Anthropology and Sociology Department and Professor of Anthropology*  
*Ph.D. — University of Florida*

Teaches courses in cross-cultural performance, visual anthropology, world music and the peoples and cultures of East Africa from an environmental studies perspective. She is a cultural anthropologist with research interests that specialize in the expressive arts of the Swahili of coastal Kenya.

### Putting Learning into Practice

- IWU anthropology students often enroll in summer field schools that provide experience working on archaeological sites or in the field as ethnographers.
- The IWU Anthropology Club hosts meetings and sponsors programs such as ethnic food outings, the annual spring induction of IWU students into the gamma chapter of the Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honor Society, campus lectures by professional anthropologists in various fields of anthropology, and field trips to locations such as the Chicago Field Museum, the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, Chinatown in Chicago and the Spurlock Museum at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- The anthropology faculty have forged a close relationship with the Native American community at Seven Circles Heritage Center in Edwards, Illinois. Through this alliance, a special summer internship has been created for IWU anthropology majors who wish to take advantage of a rare opportunity to spend two months learning first hand about Native American traditions and the issues affecting indigenous peoples in North America today.
- Anthropology students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the wide variety of study abroad programs while at IWU. In recent years, students in the program have studied urban anthropology (in Italy), cultural anthropology (in Tanzania, Mexico, American Samoa, Belize and Ecuador), linguistic anthropology (in Japan), and paleo-anthropology (in Australia), while others have enjoyed briefer travel courses in the United Kingdom, China, Kenya, Eastern Europe and Spain.
- Anthropology majors are strongly encouraged to seek out experiential learning opportunities. During the summer before their senior year, Sarah Carlson '13 worked as an intern at the Field Museum in Chicago and Katelyn Scott '13 worked as an intern at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. During their junior years, Sarah studied in New Zealand and Kate studied in Peru.
- Some of our students go on to attend graduate school in anthropology, development studies, medicine, international studies, law and other fields, while others utilize their anthropology background to launch professional careers in domestic and international trade, social and civil services, advertising, museum curating, government, contract archaeology and education.

food, work, home, wellness and nature. The program provides a framework for better understanding some of today's most pressing global issues: social justice, health-care, sustainability. By providing a range of experiential learning opportunities, anthropology faculty help students develop the theoretical and methodological skills necessary for conducting independent ethnographic research, which is quite rare at the undergraduate level.”

#### **Dr. Rebecca Gearhart**

Chair of Anthropology and Sociology Department and Professor of Anthropology



**ILLINOIS WESLEYAN**  
UNIVERSITY

### For Further Information, Write or Call:

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