

# Anthropology

Anthropology is strategically located within the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies (SAGES) to offer students the opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary studies in these areas while attaining an essential grounding in the discipline of anthropology. Staff in the SAGES are actively engaged in research and consulting projects throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Anthropology is the study of the structures, histories, beliefs and practices that characterise diverse societies and cultures throughout the world. Research draws on interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives to assess empirical data and to provide critical analyses of cultural perceptions. Students are able to take subjects that focus on specific communities in the Asia-Pacific region and may select from a diverse range of topics covering areas of interest such as kinship, gender, nationalism, myth and ritual, ethnicity, and the economic, environmental and social impact of development. Comparative approaches ensure that students are presented with anthropological perspectives on contemporary issues and problems relevant to future careers in both the public and private sectors.

Graduates of anthropology will bring an understanding of and sensitivity to cultural difference to their professional careers, whether as anthropologists working in the field, academia, or government and non-government organisations. Students interested in expanding their knowledge in anthropology are provided with an articulated structure of higher degree study options at the University of Melbourne.

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for first-year anthropology subjects.

Second/third-year anthropology subjects are available to any student who has completed at least 50 points of first-year studies.

## Requirements for a major

A major in anthropology usually consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totalling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects in anthropology: 121-107 Social Order and Social Change and 121-108 Varieties of Human Experience (25 points); and
- seven second/third-year subjects in anthropology (87.5 points), at least three of which must be chosen from the designated core of four listed below:

### Core subjects

- 121-056 The Human Cosmos (*p.2*)
- 121-058 Sentiments and Structures (*p.2*)
- 121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality (*p.2*)
- 121-065 Working with Value (*p.3*)

- an additional four subjects may be chosen from the following:\*

### Elective subjects

- 121-055 Keeping the Body in Mind (*p.2*)
- 121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World (*p.2*)
- 121-061 Applied Anthropology (*p.3*)
- 121-062 Sorcery and the Anthropology of Evil (*p.3*)
- 121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements (*p.3*)
- 121-064 Evolutionary Psychology (*p.3*)
- 121-066 Sexing the Self (*p.3*)
- 121-067 Cooperation and Conflict (*p.3*)
- 121-068 Redefining Nature (*p.3*)
- 121-069 Evolution of Consciousness (*p.4*)
- 654-307 Evolution and the Human Condition (*p.3*)

\*Of the four second/third-year non-core subjects, students may include no more than two relevant subjects taught in other departments subject to the prior approval of the undergraduate coordinator in anthropology.

## Honours entry

The prerequisites for entry to fourth-year honours in anthropology are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA;
- completion of a major in anthropology;
- an average grade of H2B or higher over the second/third-year subjects within the major.

Entry to honours must be approved by the anthropology honours coordinator and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser.

For details of entry procedures and timetable for submission of applications, students should contact the anthropology honours coordinator.

## Honours requirements

### Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in anthropology must complete:

- thesis 15 000 words (50 points)
- four subjects (4 x 12.5 points):
- 121-536 Anthropology Thesis (*p.4*)

or

- 121-535 Anthropology Thesis (MYE) (*p.4*)
- and three compulsory subjects
- 121-409 Philosophy and Scope of Anthropology (*p.4*)
- 121-445 Reading Anthropology (*p.4*)
- 121-503 Research Methods and Design (*p.8*)

and one of the following optional subjects:

- 121-475 Problems in Ethnological Theory (*p.4*)
- 121-493 Contemporary Anthropological Theory (*p.5*)
- 121-446 Explanation and Understanding (*p.4*)
- 121-491 Directed Study in Anthropology (*p.4*)

Students wishing to take an elective subject other than those listed above should consult the fourth year coordinator.

### Combined honours

Students intending to undertake combined honours in anthropology and another area of study should consult the anthropology honours coordinator about structuring their course.

### Thesis in the combining department:

Thesis (37.5 points)

- Coursework from combining department (25 points)
- 121-409 Philosophy and Scope of Anthropology (*p.4*)
- and two electives from the following:
- 121-446 Explanation and Understanding (*p.4*)
- 121-475 Problems in Ethnological Theory (*p.4*)
- 121-491 Directed Study in Anthropology (*p.4*)
- 121-493 Contemporary Anthropological Theory (*p.5*)
- 121-503 Research Methods and Design (*p.8*)

Students wishing to take an elective subject other than those listed above should consult the fourth-year honours coordinator

### Thesis in anthropology:

- 121-536 Anthropology Thesis (*p.4*)

or

- 121-535 Anthropology Thesis (MYE) (*p.4*)
- and the following subject in anthropology
- 121-409 Philosophy and Scope of Anthropology (*p.4*)
- Coursework from the combining department (37.5 points)

## Further study

A BA with honours in anthropology can lead to MA and PhD degrees.

## Career opportunities

Graduates in anthropology should develop an appreciation of the richness and complexity of the societies and cultures that make up our world, and the analytical skills to make sense of them. Some graduates may pursue careers as professional anthropologists, either within an academic institution or employed in government or non-government bodies concerned, for example, with overseas aid and development. Other graduates will continually draw on their anthropological studies as teachers, writers, journalists, administrators, and within the increasing array of professions and positions in both government and private enterprise that require an understanding of and sensitivity to cultural difference.

## For more information

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## First-year subjects

### 121-107 Social Order and Social Change

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-051. Students who have completed 121-051 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Formerly available as 136-171/001.

Students who have completed 136-171 or 136-001 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Mary Patterson

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject explores the variety of ways in which human behaviour and institutions are both constrained by and transcend environments and our shared nature as human beings. The major focus of the subject is an exploration of the dynamic interaction between processes of order and change in social life and its effects on how people experience the different worlds they inhabit. Important topics to be considered include the relationship between the global and the local, the transformative aspects of ritual experience, the persistence of kinship relations and religious ideologies, and the politics of identity. There is a regional emphasis on Australia and the Pacific.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 3000 words and a 1-hour class test.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

D Gewertz & F Errington, *Twisted Histories, Altered Contexts*, Cambridge University Press, 1991. • R Tonkinson, *The Mardu Aborigines. Living the Dream in Australia's Desert*, Holt Rinehart & Winston, 2nd ed., 1991.

### 121-108 Varieties of Human Experience

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-052. Students who have completed 121-052 are not eligible to enrol in this subject. Formerly available as 136-172/002. Students who have completed 136-172 or 136-002 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 1st year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Andy Dawson

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject explores aspects of human behaviour relating to human cognition and the symbolic worlds humans create and inhabit. Students will consider language, forms of symbolic classification, kinship, religion, myth, rationality and relativism, non-Western medical systems and problems of anthropological method and ethnographic description. On completion of the subject students should have a general understanding of the social and cultural basis of human experience; a general familiarity with the range of world views documented in ethnographic literature; and a background of relevant ethnographic knowledge on which to base further anthropological studies.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 2000 words and a 2-hour exam.

**Prescribed texts:** Subject reader will be available.

E Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande*, abridged ed, Clarendon Press, 1976. • J Hendry, *Wrapping Culture*, Oxford University Press, 1993.

## Second/third-year subjects

### 121-054 Applied Medical Anthropology

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-004 or 136-210/310. Students who have completed 136-004 or 136-210/310 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject examines the social, economic, political and other influences on the practice of biomedical science and the delivery of health care in developing areas and the effects of local attitudes, beliefs, values and knowledge on the reception of health care. Students will focus on potential conflict and cooperation between modern and traditional health care systems, and on what practical steps can be taken by social and medical scientists and medical practitioners to improve local conditions. Examples and case studies may be drawn from the Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America, and from Aboriginal communities in Australia. On completion of the subject students should understand the influence of beliefs, values and knowledge on the efficacy of health care delivery; have acquired the ability to critically assess applied biomedical science; and have an understanding of both macro- and micro-level sociopolitical issues on the delivery of health care.

### 121-055 Keeping the Body in Mind

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-005 or 136-212/312. Students who have completed 136-005 or 136-212/312 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Anthony Marcus

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject is an introduction to the key concepts and debates in medical anthropology. We examine the way in which knowledge about health, sickness and healing is the product of specific, historical, social and cultural contexts. The body is the site for knowledge and experience about sickness and healing and accordingly we examine the way that concepts about the body in health and sickness are related to cultural, social and political formations and values. Our own culture and predominant medical system (biomedicine) is examined in the latter part of the subject in order to understand how our assumptions about the body, self, and sickness are neither natural nor neutral, but are culturally embedded and intimately linked with relations of power. Examples may include shamanism, witchcraft, Ayurvedic medicine, ethnopsychiatry and cyberbodies.

**Assessment:** An essay and a take-home exam totalling 4000 words.

### 121-056 The Human Cosmos

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-006 or 136-271/371. Students who have completed 136-006 or 136-271/371 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Douglas Lewis

**Contact:** A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject is an introduction to the anthropological study of religion by an examination of myth and/or ritual, with ethnographic examples drawn mainly from Pacific Rim cultures. Students who complete this subject will have acquired a grounding in the anthropological and comparative study of myth and/or ritual; a knowledge of the varieties of religious practice; a knowledge of the principal theories and methods anthropologists employ in the study of religion; and a knowledge of the relationships between cosmology and society.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words.

### 121-057 Ethnic Nationalism and the Modern World

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-272/372/007. Students who have completed 136-272/372/007 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Andy Dawson

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** Ethnicity is of special concern to anthropologists, especially in instances where anthropology becomes part of nationalist discourse. This subject considers ethnicity in a variety of contexts from Africa, Europe and Australia to the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. Students will examine different approaches to nationalism, the formation and reproduction of ethnic boundaries, nationalist myths and historiography, colonialism and postcolonialism and the relationship between individual, state and nation in the modern world economy. On completion of the subject students should have engaged in a critical comparison of ethnicity in major culture complexes of the world and be well acquainted with anthropological approaches to the study of colonialism, dependency, and ethnic identity.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words.

### 121-058 Sentiments and Structures

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-008 or 274/374. Students who have completed 136-008 or 136-274/374 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Mary Patterson

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week. There will be no tutorials in the first and last weeks of semester (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** The subject is concerned with the comparative study of kinship and family in Western and non-Western societies, considering them as both forms of social structure and primary sites of sentimental and affective states. Students who complete the subject should have an introductory knowledge of the variety of forms of kinship reckoning and family organisation to be found in the world today, and a general understanding of the variable relationship between kinship and family and the wider issues of social identity, gender roles, economic and political organisation and social structure.

**Assessment:** A research essay of 2250 words, a one-hour class test and two short assignments one of 500 words and one of 250 words.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 121-060 Power, Ideology and Inequality

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-010 or 136-277/377. Students who have completed 136-010 or 136-277/377 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Mary Patterson

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This course offers a comparative perspective on the distribution of inequalities in human societies over time and in contemporary cultures. The aim of the subject is to investigate the varied manifestations of interactions between power, ideologies and the material world. This will involve us in discussions of the nature of 'egalitarianism' and 'hierarchy' and the way in which concepts developed by social theorists influence our understanding of indigenous ideas, theories and practice. Issues of gender, knowledge production, and access to scarce resources will be considered in relation to political processes and structures through case studies of caste, gerontocracy, Pacific leadership, divine monarchies and colonial cultures. The interplay between domination and resistance will be discussed in the context of colonial and post-colonial states and globalisation. There is a strong area focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

**Assessment:** Class paper, take home exam and research essay totalling 4000 words.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 121-061 Applied Anthropology

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-011 or 136-278/3781. Students who have completed 136-011 or 136-278/378 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Anthony Marcus

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject surveys applied anthropological work in Australia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the USA. Topics will include work in economic development, social impact assessment, medicine, education, international business and marketing, and the protection of ecosystems. Students who complete the subject successfully should be able to design individual career paths for working as anthropologists or using anthropological skills outside academia; understand how anthropologists can and do help solve practical problems at home and overseas; and work effectively on applied projects as members of multidisciplinary teams.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words.

### 121-062 Sorcery and the Anthropology of Evil

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-012 or 279/379. Students who have completed 136-012 or 136-279/379 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject entails a cross-cultural and historical investigation of the beliefs and activities seen as manifestations of evil in the world, from sorcery and witchcraft in Africa, the Pacific and the Americas to witchcraft revivals and 'witch hunts' in the modern world. Students completing this subject should be able to make a critical analysis of the ways in which anthropologists have attempted to explain the phenomena in question; understand the nature of beliefs and practices about supernatural malevolence in relation to arguments about rationality; and present some arguments about the interpretation of evil in society in relation to issues of race, class, gender and colonialism.

### 121-063 Culture Change and Protest Movements

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-013 or 136-281/381. Students who have completed 136-013 or 136-281/381 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Monica Minnegal

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject tackles problems of culture change and responses to the influence of Western societies on the non-Western world, including cultural protest. Students who complete this subject should have a knowledge of the range and variety of ways in which non-Western societies have evolved and acculturated under the influence of Western missionaries, colonialisation and imperial control; mastered the principal anthropological approaches to the study of acculturation and theories of social change; engaged in a critical assessment of the impact of Western cultures on the non-Western world; acquired a knowledge of the ethnographic and ethnological literature on Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Melanesia and South America.

**Assessment:** Two class papers of 500 words each and an essay of 3000 words

### 121-064 Evolutionary Psychology

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-014 or 136-287/387. Students who have completed 136-014 or 136-287/387 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject examines whether the model of a multi-modular mind proposed by evolutionary psychologists can help explain what people in different societies do. Evolutionary psychologists argue that mind modules (neural circuits) solved recurrent problems affecting reproductive fitness in ancestral societies. Using written and filmed examples of social behaviour around the world (primarily in the Asia-Pacific region) students will discuss how, and if, an understanding of mind modules can help in explaining social behaviour, and how anthropologists and other researchers in the human sciences can apply the work of evolutionary psychologists to help solve ethnological questions in diverse societies.

### 121-065 Working with Value

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-015 or 136-292/392. Students who have completed 136-015 or 136-292/392 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Prerequisites:** A 12.5-point first-year subject in anthropology, economics, economic history or development studies.

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject examines the diverse ways people have gone about 'making a living', and the ways anthropologists have sought to explain them. The focus is on the social relations involved in production and reproduction of material life, and on the importance of culture and environment in the construction and transformation of those relationships. Ethnographic examples from systems of different complexity are used to explore the diverse ways in which production, consumption and exchange may be organised and understood, and the ways these domains are articulated. Students should not only become familiar with local economies, but with the emergence of a global economy and the ways it is transforming local and regional logics.

### 121-066 Sexing the Self

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-016 or 136-293/393. Students who have completed 136-016 or 136-293/393 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject explores the construction of gender and sex in a variety of the world's societies. On completion of the subject students should have gained a knowledge of gender-based systems of social classification in non-Western societies; have acquired a knowledge of contemporary critiques of the representation of women's and men's lives in ethnography; and have explored the anthropology of sexual reproduction.

### 121-067 Cooperation and Conflict

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-295/395/017. Students who have completed 136-295/395/017 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Monica Minnegal

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject draws on evolutionary theory to see how cooperation and conflict can be seen as two sides of the same coin. And it draws on ecological thought to see how availability and accessibility of material, social and cultural resources shapes the strategies that people can be expected to use at different times and in different places. The subject will introduce students to the logic of evolutionary ecology and to the ways it contributes to a broader understanding of human behaviour. Through the use of ethnographic examples students should become familiar with: the application of evolutionary ecology to understanding patterns of resource procurement, the organisation of access to material and social resources, life history strategies and reproductive behaviour, gender roles, formation and maintenance of groups for production and consumption, alliance formation and the emergence of social complexity.

**Assessment:** Two class papers of 500 words each and an essay of 3000 words.

### 121-068 Redefining Nature

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-018 or 136-296/396. Students who have completed 136-018 or 136-296/396 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Monica Minnegal

**Prerequisites:** 50 points of first-year subjects in the Arts Faculty.

**Contact:** A 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject will address anthropological issues raised by the discourse of environmentalism, exploring the diverse ways in which individuals and societies perceive and interact with their environments. Students will explore constructions of nature and culture, how people place themselves in space and in time, and how they place the things of the world in relation to themselves. Students will also address uses and limitations of 'traditional ecological knowledge', patterns of land tenure and issues of land management. Students should become familiar with the different ways people interpret their roles and responsibilities in relation to the natural world, and with the ways understandings of nature both reflect and affect how people see themselves and their society.

**Assessment:** Class papers and an essay totalling 4000 words.

**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.

### 121-069 Evolution of Consciousness

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-019 or 136-297/397. Students who have completed 136-019 or 136-297/397 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Douglas Lewis

**Contact:** A 1.5-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject will examine recent advances in anthropology, paleontology, the neurosciences, psychology, and evolutionary biology which are producing new ideas about the origins of and relationships between the human brain, mind, language, behaviour, and culture. Specific topics to be discussed will include recent studies of the evolution of language and the relationships between the morphological, mental and cultural evolution of *Homo sapiens*, with reference to recent advances in the neurobiology of consciousness. On completion of the subject students should have a grounding in contemporary thought in the sciences of evolution and in the role of evolutionary theory in anthropological approaches to the study of culture and human sociality.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 4000 words.

## Fourth-year subjects

### 121-536 Anthropology Thesis

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 50

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Monica Minnegal

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology.

**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Year long*).

**Description:** An independent research project on a topic to be approved by the course coordinator, under the supervision of a member of the academic staff.

**Assessment:** A thesis of 15 000 words. A hurdle requirement is the submission of a statement of a research problem at a date to be specified by week one of the first semester of enrolment.

### 121-535 Anthropology Thesis (MYE)

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 50

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Monica Minnegal

**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology.

**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** An independent research project on a topic to be approved by the course coordinator, under the supervision of a member of the academic staff.

**Assessment:** A thesis of 15 000 words. A hurdle requirement is the submission of a statement of a research problem at a date to be specified by week one of the first semester of enrolment.

### 121-409 Philosophy and Scope of Anthropology

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-022 or 121-072. Students who have completed 136-022 or 121-072 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Andy Dawson

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology.

**Contact:** A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 1*).

**Description:** This subject offers an historical overview of the principal approaches to theory, method and forms of explanation that have shaped anthropology in the 20th century. Students should become familiar with the dominant anthropological traditions in Britain, the United States and France, from functionalism through to poststructuralism, and be able critically to examine the historically changing conception of the scope and aim of anthropology and its philosophical underpinnings.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.

**Prescribed texts:** Materials prepared by the School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies.

### 121-445 Reading Anthropology

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-104. Students who have completed 121-104 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Monica Minnegal, Dr Mary Patterson

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology.

**Contact:** Regular meetings with the coordinator (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** This is a special study based on intensive reading selected from teaching interests within the program covering a subject not already taken or extending knowledge within a subject already studied. This subject should facilitate the student's powers of independent inquiry; develop initiative in self-directed research; increase understanding of an area of anthropology not previously studied, or advance understanding of an area of already established knowledge.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.

### 121-446 Explanation and Understanding

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-085 or 136-020. Students who have completed 121-085 or 136-020 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Dr Douglas Lewis

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology.

**Contact:** A 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

**Description:** This subject examines methodological and epistemological issues at an advanced level, focusing especially on causation in human affairs, the nature of understanding and explanation in the social sciences, hermeneutics, the problems of objectivity and value, freedom, tests, and research design in the human sciences. Students completing this subject should be able to explore a number of methodological and epistemological issues at an advanced level.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.

### 121-475 Problems in Ethnological Theory

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-121 or 121-081. Students who have completed 136-121 or 121-081 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology or Asian studies.

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject examines some of the theoretical trends and methods of ethnography and ethnology that define contemporary sociocultural anthropology. Subject content, readings, and seminar projects will vary from year to year. In 2003, the seminar will focus on the nature of social institutions and their relationships to ideologies and cultural values. Members of the seminar will collaborate on designing and carrying out a research project requiring the application of qualitative anthropological methods and on writing up the results of the research.

### 121-491 Directed Study in Anthropology

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-024 or 121-084. Students who have completed 136-024 or 121-084 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Coordinator:** Drs Patterson, Lewis, Minnegal & Dawson

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology, and written approval of proposed study from the coordinator.

**Contact:** Two hours of consultation per week (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

**Description:** This subject involves intensive reading and/or research in a field of ethnological study and/or an area of topical concern not covered by other subjects available. The course of study may include an appropriate subject offered in another department. Students who complete this subject should have developed skills in researching the available literature on a specific anthropological topic; have thoroughly understood the theoretical and empirical issues raised by that literature; be equipped to formulate and target a specific area of future research at postgraduate level.

**Assessment:** Written work totalling 5000 words.

### 121-492 Advanced Topics in Applied Anthropology

**Note:** Formerly available as 121-083 or 136-025. Students who have completed 121-083 or 136-025 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Prerequisites:** Admission to fourth-year honours or a postgraduate degree in anthropology, sociology, economics, development, agriculture, forestry, geography, engineering, biology, medicine, education, commerce, or law and successful completion of 121-061 Applied Anthropology (*p.3*) or equivalent.

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject focuses on anthropological research, skills and information, in order to help students understand the causes of, and seek solutions to, practical problems in economic development, native title, and related issues both in Australia and overseas. The subject emphasises the needs, motivations, wider circumstances, and decision-making of the various people and groups involved, while concurrently examining the specificity of a few cases. The subject also includes practical career information and advice. Students will select their own problems or cases to investigate, report on in the seminar, and write about in their essay. Student contact with appropriate people and agencies will be facilitated where possible and appropriate.

### 121-493 Contemporary Anthropological Theory

**Note:** Formerly available as 136-026 or 121-082. Students who have completed 136-026 or 121-082 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

**Availability:** 4th year

**Credit points:** 12.5

**HECS-band:** 1

**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in anthropology.

**Semester:** Not Offered

**Description:** This subject is devoted to an examination of recent theoretical developments and controversies within anthropology. Each year an important issue that has occasioned debate within the discipline will be examined in detail, such as the debate between Sahlins and Obeyesekere about the meaning of the death of Cook in Hawaii. Students who complete the subject should comprehend the kinds of theoretical arguments used by anthropologists in explaining events, and be able to undertake a critical evaluation of issues in anthropological theory, practice, and writing.

