

Anthropology concerns itself with the holistic study of the human condition—socially, culturally, linguistically, and biologically in space and in time. Our faculty is committed to this fourfold approach, believing that anthropology is poised to examine what it means to be human.

We value comparative teaching and interdisciplinary research because anthropology is a field without clear borders. We emphasize the connection of anthropology to the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. Because of this approach, students can double major and many have paired anthropology with archeological studies, English, biology, African American studies, or mathematics.

If you have traveled some, are interested in travel, or have experienced different societies, cultures, and foods; if you consider yourself adventurous and willing to engage in intense, hands-on learning within a liberal arts setting, Oberlin's offerings in anthropology may be for you.

Skills gained through the study of anthropology complement the hallmarks of an Oberlin education: creative and critical thinking, oral expression, writing, problem solving, and social justice advocacy. Graduates are prepared to continue graduate-level study in almost any field and many pursue the doctorate in anthropology. Our students attain competitive fellowships and attend the University of Chicago, Indiana University, Temple University, George Mason University, the University of Michigan, and others.

## CURRICULUM SUMMARY

Our courses in cultural anthropology, archeology, linguistic anthropology, and biological anthropology em-

phasize the role of fieldwork in contributing to the sum total of knowledge about the human career on Earth. In this way, we base our theories and interpretations of human differences and similarities across cultures and through time, and on continuing empirical investigations of anthropology.

The field research of each faculty member, accordingly, finds a central place in our classrooms. Majors develop critical thinking and research skills while demonstrating the continuing relevance of anthropology to an understanding of an increasingly transcultural world.

You will have opportunities to engage in participation/observation, a qualitative research method employed today as businesses, institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other groups seek nontraditional ways to gather and analyze data. You will learn about people and their lives by doing what they do and then through analysis and writing.

Students who want to study languages may study linguistic anthropology. Oberlin is one of the few schools of its size to offer coursework that involves the analysis of sign languages and Deaf cultures. This course supports our exchange program with Gallaudet University, the world leader in liberal education and career development for Deaf and hard of hearing undergraduate students. Located in Washington, D.C., the program provides a unique opportunity for Oberlin students interested in communication disorders, Deaf education, and related issues.

Students also have a distinct chance to study and use the department's Ethnographic Collection, an online resource of about 1,000 objects collected by alumni who worked as

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missionaries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mostly in southeast Africa. Students may conduct research, and perform data analysis as it pertains to the collection.

We offer an honors program for students interested in pursuing original independent research. The college's extensive library and computing facilities, as well as close supervision from a faculty member, will assist you in this process.

### **COURSE SAMPLING**

- ANTH 102 - Human Origins
- ANTH 210 - Indigenous Peoples of Latin America
- ANTH 212 – Ecological Perspectives on Forager Lifeways
- ANTH 376 – Language and Prehistory
- ANTH 475 – Anthropology and Multiculturalism

### **ABOUT THE FACULTY**

#### **Baron Pineda**

Associate Professor/Chair of Anthropology (2003)  
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Interests: Cultural anthropology, race/racism, and politics of culture

#### **Mollie Callahan**

Oberlin-Michigan Postdoctoral Fellow in Latin American Studies and Anthropology  
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Interests: Medical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, ethnomedicine, intellectuals, the Andes

#### **Crystal L. Fortwangler**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies  
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Interests: Maya Aboriginal land and resource rights, agroforestry, water and cultural diversity, international biodiversity conservation

#### **Jack Glazier**

Professor of Anthropology  
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Interests: East African ritual, land tenure, and social change; immigration and ethnicity in the United States; African American life and race relations in Christian County, Kentucky

#### **Jason D. Haugen**

Visiting Assistant Professor for 2009-10  
[jason.haugen@oberlin.edu](mailto:jason.haugen@oberlin.edu)  
Interests: Native American linguistics, particularly the Hiaki (Yaqui) language and its relatives in the Uto-Aztecan language family of the western U.S and Mexico

#### **Erika Hoffmann**

Assistant Professor  
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Interests: The emergence and standardization of Nepali Sign Language

#### **Amy Margaris**

Assistant Professor  
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Interests: Ecological adaptations of hunter-gatherer societies, particularly those in subarctic Alaska and Paleolithic Eurasia

#### **Gina Perez**

Associate Professor/Chair of Comparative American Studies  
Anthropologist  
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Interests: U.S. Latinas/os, gender, political economy, migration, transnationalism, urban anthropology, poverty, militarization and Latina/o youth, Latina feminisms