

Anthropology

College of Arts

Dean's Summary

Submitted by:

Dr. Sylvie Murray, Dean, College of Arts

Accepted by:

Senate in February 2023

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee in January 2023

MEMORANDUM

Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

APPC Chair: James Mandigo

APPC Assistant: Melinda Saretzky

TO: Gerry Palmer, Vice Chair, Senate

FROM: James Mandigo, Chair, Academic Planning and Priorities Committee

CC: Sylvie Murray, Dean, College of Arts
Claire Carolan, Associate Director, Program Development and Quality Assurance

DATE: January 26, 2023

RE: Anthropology Program Review

The Anthropology Program within the College of Arts, Faculty of Social Sciences underwent a program review in 2021-22. The Academic Planning and Priorities Committee reviewed all of the documentation related to the program review and accepted them at its January 25, 2023 meeting and recommend to Senate for approval.

The work on the Self-Study from members of the Program Working Group was highly commended, including their extensive curriculum review. The summary highlights EDI by inviting students and readers into the diversity of people around the world. The Dean is in support of a long-term plan to produce a major and commends the systematic way of working backwards to ensure the program is built properly.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

THAT Senate accept the Dean's Summary Report of the Anthropology Program Review as presented.

Attachments:

- Memo to APPC
- Dean's Summary Report

Remainder of the documents located:

- UFV Drive: H:\UFVinfo\APPC
- Blackboard: COM-APPC (Senate Committee – APPC)

Dean's Summary Report, Anthropology Program Review, School of Culture, Media and Society

Dr. Sylvie Murray, Dean of Arts, November 15, 2022

Introduction

Program review for the Anthropology program occurred in 2021-2022, in accordance with Policy 189, and culminated with a site visit on May 18 and 19, 2022. The External Review Report (ERR) was received in early June and an initial response was provided by the program in late October.

The Program Review was informed by the Dean's scope letter and a self-study conducted by the School director, two permanent Anthropology faculty members, and a sociologist. The self-study drew on data provided by Institutional Research and from surveys conducted by the self-study committee. The External Review Committee (ERC) met with several stakeholders during the site visit, including Anthropology and Sociology faculty, the Anthropology sessional instructor, the department assistant, colleagues from Indigenous Studies and Global Development Studies, the Dean and Associate Deans, the Vice-Provost, Academic, the Senior Advisor to Indigenous Affairs, an Academic advisor, representatives from the Institutional Research and Planning office, the AVP, Research, Engagement and Graduate Studies, a Teaching and Learning Specialist, and the Liaison librarian responsible for the program. and members of UFV's senior leadership team administration.

The Anthropology program is administered by the School of Culture, Media and Society (SCMS) within the Faculty of Social Sciences in the College of Arts. At the time of the review, the School included 11 permanent faculty members, two of which are Anthropologists.

Programs under review are the Anthropology minor and extended minor, and the Sociology/Anthropology major.

The School and the Dean wish to express their sincere gratitude to the external reviewers for their time, energy, and thoughtfulness.

Their assessment of the value of the program to the University's Vision, Mission, Values, and Strategic Goals and Plans is positive. In particular, the reviewers noted:

- "Anthropology as a discipline is specifically concerned with documenting the lives and life experiences of diverse peoples from the perspectives of those peoples. Students of anthropology engage in transformative activities that prepare them to participate actively in their own diverse communities as well as globally." As such, anthropology is strongly aligned with UFV's Vision, Mission, and Values (ERR, p. 3).
- "The anthropology faculty are committed to the three overarching goals of UFV's 2021-2026 Integrated Strategic Plan. Ethnography, a research methodology pioneered by anthropologists, is specifically based in practices of "deep listening, dialogue, and democratic civil engagement" and requires "active and experiential forms of learning." The anthropologists continue to work on decolonizing their teaching and research programs and integrating EDI principles throughout the curriculum. Students who participate in anthropology courses develop tools for acting as "ethical and engaged citizens." (ERR, p. 3)

- Contribution to Indigenization includes “two courses on Indigenous Peoples in British Columbia (ANTH 111 & ANTH 211), one on Indigenous Peoples in Canada (ANTH/SOC 387), a course in Indigenous Research Methodologies (ANTH/IPK 344), and a course on Minority Indigenous Peoples of the World (ANTH/LAS/SOC 388). These courses are important for students in the Anthropology programs and for students in other programs looking for courses on Indigenous Peoples.” (ERR, p. 3)
- Contribution to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan is noted as well: “Anthropology includes the study of human cultural diversity through time and space. Anthropology courses foster students’ understanding of social and cultural issues and their capacity for cross-cultural understanding. This provides a foundation they can build on as they explore their worlds, as students and in their lives in their communities.” (ERR, p. 3)

The external reviewers also noted that the program “is in a rebuilding phase” and provided seven key recommendations to support this process, with the goal of developing a new stand-alone major in anthropology:

1. Actively, intentionally, and enthusiastically communicate the value of anthropology to the UFV and wider communities.
2. Identify anthropology courses, including some upper-level courses, that can be service courses for other programs.
3. Revise the anthropology curriculum to correspond to the new Program Learning Outcomes and to reflect current intellectual advances in sociocultural anthropology, providing opportunities for students to conduct anthropological research.
4. Eliminate cross-listing except in cases where the course content is truly interdisciplinary.
5. Create a stable 2-year teaching rotation for anthropology courses.
6. Encourage students to participate in Work Integrated Learning opportunities.
7. Initiate honest conversations with colleagues in SCMS and SSJGS about re-establishing Anthropology as a viable field of undergraduate study at UFV.

An additional set of 8 recommendations were made in the body of the report:

8. Develop an Anthropology Major.
9. Revise the Soc/ANTH Major.
10. Include more opportunities for students to develop and propose solutions to modern issues. Create opportunities for students to explore how anthropology-related skills, theories and processes are related to real-world issues and solutions.
11. Remove barriers to enrolling in ANTH courses by eliminating pre-requisites for 200-level courses and, where appropriate, from 300-level courses.
12. Include ANTH theory in all courses, as opposed to having a theory-specific course.
13. Reinvigorate the SAUS (student club).
14. Consider making the 300-level research methods courses worth 6 credits (2-section weighting for instructors) to reflect the amount of work involved for both faculty and students.
15. Work with student advisors to ensure advisers are aware of program changes and the value of the program, and so that ANTH faculty/SCMS Director to keep informed about current student interests, etc., as expressed to Advisers.

I support this goal and the specific recommendations made which will substantially improve the quality of the current program while building capacity for launching a stand-alone major in the medium term (five years). I commend the program faculty for their attentive and rigorous response to the reviewers' recommendations, and their diligent curriculum redevelopment effort.

What follows is a detailed response as agreed upon in consultation with the program faculty, the School Director and myself.

Anthropology Program Review

Response to External Review Report and Action Plan

Submitted to Sylvie Murray, November 8, 2022

Key Recommendation	School Response	Action to be taken
<p>1. Actively, intentionally, and enthusiastically communicate the value of anthropology to the UFV and wider communities</p>	<p>Yes, we need to raise the profile of the Anthropology program and actively recruit students into the program</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Anth faculty to develop social media presence b) Anth and/or SCMS Director to organize Anth-oriented events and activities (e.g., book club, film nights, etc.) c) SCMS to host student events and activities for all SCMS students, including Anth students d) Anth faculty and SCMS Director to meet with Advising to get feedback on what students are looking for in programs and what draws them (or discourages them) from taking ANTH courses/program e) Anth faculty and SCMS Director to update and revise Anth portion of SCMS website f) Anth faculty to create short, accessible description of Anth PLOs for website g) SCMS to host a regional student conference that will highlight Anth (and other) students and provide them with opportunities to demonstrate their skills

<p>2. Identify anthropology courses, including some upper-level courses, that can be service courses for other programs.</p>	<p>We already have a lot of existing service courses. The difficulty is in making these courses required (as opposed to optional) courses and in communicating the relevance of Anth to the wider community (the latter will be addressed as per point 1 above).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Include ANTH courses in the Intercultural Essentials Associate Certificate that is being developed b) During/after Anth curriculum update, identify and review ANTH courses which might act as service courses for other areas and approach other program areas to explore which courses would be of benefit to them
<p>3. Revise the anthropology curriculum to correspond to the new Program Learning Outcomes and to reflect current intellectual advances in sociocultural anthropology, providing opportunities for students to conduct anthropological research.</p>	<p>We are happy that the review committee endorsed our proposal to more clearly frame and continue developing the Anth program as a Sociocultural Anthropology program. We are in the process of revising the Anth curriculum. In fact, this work had already been commenced during the year of the review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Write and submit new Official Course Outlines for proposed new ANTH courses b) Update existing ANTH OCO's to reflect revised ANTH PLO's as well as to refresh and update curriculum c) Ensure that course and program LOs reflect the ethnographic centrality and integration of methods, theory, and ethics, as appropriate to course level and credential d) Talk to Sociology Program Area Working Group about Anth participation in proposed Applied Social Research Certificate curriculum
<p>4. Eliminate cross-listing except in cases where the course content is truly interdisciplinary</p>	<p>We agree that we need to reduce the number of Anthropology courses that are cross-listed into other disciplinary areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review all cross-listed ANTH courses and assess content. Any course that has less than 50% of explicitly Anth content will be de-cross-listed, unless there is a strong reason not to b) SCMS Director and Coordinator to make sure that the timetabling and scheduling of cross-listed ANTH courses housed in other programs do not present enrolment or ANTH program fulfillment challenges to ANTH courses scheduled/timetabled for that same term. c) Encourage faculty teaching courses cross-listed into Anth to invite Anth faculty to provide a guest lecture or suggestions on how to

		include Anth materials into the course.
5. Create a stable 2-year teaching rotation for anthropology courses.	We agree this needs to be done. A two-year rotation is currently being developed.	a) We will create a two-year teaching rotation based around the revised and updated Anth curriculum
6. Encourage students to participate in Work Integrated Learning opportunities.	We agree this is a useful opportunity for students. We agree that students need to see how Anthropology is a useful and relevant degree for them, and see the connection between ANTH course content and life outside ANTH courses, including how to problem-solve for “real world” issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) This year, Anth faculty are already involved in creating a Community Engaged Learning Experience in an ANTH course (ANTH 368) b) Anth faculty member to explore possibility of creating student research opportunities in local Indigenous communities c) Anth faculty and SCMS Director to review Anth curriculum for WIL opportunities d) Anth faculty and SCMS Director to look for Anth-related opportunities for this within Intercultural Studies Associate Certificate
7. Initiate honest conversations with colleagues in SCMS and SSJGS about re-establishing Anthropology as a viable field of undergraduate study at UFV	SCMS needs to go through a process of post-pandemic revitalization. This will include discussions about the value of Anthropology as a discipline and familiarizing faculty with the type of work anthropologists do (including SCMS Anthropologists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SCMS Faculty activities in which we briefly present about our research and teaching interests b) Conduct an asset map within SCMS in relation to faculty members c) SCMS discussion about how to improve recruitment and retention for all SCMS programs d) Create more opportunities for social exchanges within SCMS e) Continue to explore connections between the applied social justice and stewardship programs of SSJGS and Anthropology as a means of promoting and reinvigorating the discipline

Additional issues raised in relation to Anth Program review

Recommendation or Concern	Reflection	Action to be taken
<p>8. Develop an Anthropology Major</p> <p>See p. 20 of ERR, point 3</p>	<p>We wholeheartedly agree. We are revising the Anth curriculum with this goal in mind, with new courses to be introduced in stages as we proceed towards this goal.</p>	<p>a) We will approach this as a 5-year plan.</p> <p>b) In the initial years, we need to focus on recruiting more students into the program and building our student base</p>
<p>9. Revise the Soc/Anth Major</p>	<p>We are unsure what should be done with the SOC/ANTH Major—whether it should be converted into an ANTH Major, discontinued (after the ANTH Major is implemented), or update and continue it as a SOC/ANTH or ANTH/SOC Major.</p>	<p>a) Revise and update the Major to include an equal number of Anth and Soc requirements</p> <p>b) Ensure that Anth courses reflect the emphasis and integration in ethnography of method, theory, ethics and writing</p> <p>c) SCMS Director, in conjunction with the Anth faculty, to conduct student survey for data that allows us to assess student interest in continuing this Major after the ANTH Major is in place</p>
<p>10. Include more opportunities for students to develop and propose solutions to modern issues</p> <p>Create opportunities for students to explore how anthropology-related skills, theories and processes are related to real-world issues and solutions.</p> <p>See p. 6 of ERR, point 4</p>	<p>We agree that this is an important thing to include but it is also difficult to do so in a way that holds true to anthropology’s core values (especially cultural relativism) when we are also asked to remove barriers to students enrolling in ANTH courses; this means that we are asking students to do this without necessarily having had the experience and practice of unpacking their cultural assumptions about the world. We therefore feel that we will be able to address this recommendation more</p>	<p>a) Anth faculty to actively consider making connections to real-world issues when engaging in curriculum delivery and review</p> <p>b) As part of the new ANTH major we are planning a capstone course where students draw on their anthropological training to investigate and suggest possible solutions to social justice issues</p>

	robustly when in conjunction with an ANTH major	
<p>11. Remove barriers to enrolling in Anth courses by eliminating pre-requisites for 200-level courses and, where appropriate, from 300-level courses</p> <p>See p. 15 of ERR</p>	<p>We agree that there is a need to reduce barriers for students to enrol in ANTH courses but also want to ensure that Anth students are not disadvantaged due to an inability to build on prior knowledge as they progress through the program. We agree that eliminating pre-requisites from 200-level courses is a fairly easy ask, we feel that anyone enrolling in a 300-level ANTH course should have at least completed ANTH 102.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Anth Program Area Working Group to review the pre-requisites for all ANTH courses. b) Making 200-level ANTH courses only require a certain number of credits (while still recommending ANTH 102 as a pre-requisite)
<p>12. Include Anth theory in all courses, as opposed to having a theory-specific course</p> <p>See p. 15 of ERR</p>	<p>While we agree that theory should be an integral part of all ANTH courses (as it currently is), we also think it is important that students completing a major or extended minor in ANTH have the opportunity to delve more deeply into theory. Otherwise, some important theories and disciplinary issues may be missed out because they do not fit and cannot be offered within the current courses we offer at UFV. It is important to note that theory in anthropology is closely integrated with methods, ethics, and rhetoric. Hence, even a course that</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue to address theory in all courses, in close integration with methods and ethics, as is normative in ethnographic work b) Ensure that the third-year theory course uses this integrative approach c) Revise the SOC/ANTH major to ensure that graduates have a solid grasp of anthropological theory d) Since anthropological theory is closely tied to methods, ethics, and rhetoric/writing, give students in all courses opportunities to integrate these knowledges and develop skills in ethnographic writing

	focuses on theory is extending student knowledge and contributing to our learning outcomes.	
<p>13. Reinvigorate the SAUS (student club)</p> <p>See p. 16 of ERR</p>	<p>Given the low enrolments in the SOC/ANTH major and the ANTH minor and extended minor this does not seem like the best time for this. We agree, however, that there is a need to work towards greater student engagement. SCMS is commencing post-pandemic student engagement efforts including film nights and a student conference with hopes that student interest in SAUS will re-emerge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Anth faculty (with the support of the Director) to work on creating more opportunities for Anth students to meet with each other and with Anth faculty b) When numbers increase and/or the Anth major is launched, reinvigorate SAUS
<p>14. Consider making the 300-level research methods courses worth 6 credits (2-section weighting for instructors) to reflect the amount of work involved for both faculty and students</p> <p>See p. 16 of ERR</p>	<p>While we agree such courses are a significant amount of work for both instructors and students, we are concerned that making them 6 credits would further dilute anthropological contributions to the degree. At present these courses are taught by SOC faculty and largely service students enrolled in SOC programs. The one exception to this is 344 which, while taught by an ANTH faculty, is not explicitly focused on ANTH research (it is also not a methods course)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Revisit the question of workload when Anth is in the position to offer a 4XX 'capstone' (or other applied upper-level classes) within a major

<p>15. Work with student advisors to ensure advisers are aware of program changes and the value of the program, and so that Anth faculty/SCMS Director to keep informed about current student interests, etc., as expressed to Advisers.</p> <p>See p. 16 of ERR</p>	<p>We agree there is a need to reach out to advising to have conversations around the Anth program and what ANTH courses have to offer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Anth faculty member has already initiated some of this in relation to Fall 2022 ANTH courses.b) Director and Anth faculty to connect with advising at least once per academic year
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