Master of Research in Anthropology – 2018

BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Master of Research is a two-year program and is the main pathway to Macquarie’s Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programs.

In Year 1 (BPhil) you will undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in your area of study.

Year 2 (MRes) is a masters-level postgraduate research training program. You will specialise in research preparation and focus on a specific research topic, and will be required to submit a research thesis of 20,000 words.

2018 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

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FOAR701 – RESEARCH PARADIGMS

Compulsory – Session 1, Day & External

This unit provides a broad overview of the research paradigms that characterise the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Through FOAR701:

- The Faculty of Arts seeks to provide students with a constructive framework to recognise the possible contribution of diverse theoretical and disciplinary approaches.
- Students will learn to better recognise the assumptions that underpin diverse approaches, their strengths, and their relations to each other, especially to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas.
- Students will have a strong grasp of the intellectual terrain across Arts disciplines, having become familiar with some of the core paradigms that have persisted in our fields, including through multiple variants over time.

ANTH701 – CORE ISSUES IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY I

Compulsory – Session 1, Day – A/Prof Chris Houston

The core unit in the Master of Research specialisation in anthropology provides a grounding in theoretical, methodological and interpretive issues that are currently being debated by anthropologists. These issues will vary from year to year according to contemporary developments in anthropology and the interests of the course convener. Others may be more enduring, such as the theoretical issues related to kinship, to politics and power and the relation between individual and society, the “writing culture” debate, “Orientalism” and the problem of the “other,” and cultural relativism.

ANTH700 – APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY: WHY DOES CULTURE MATTER?

Session 1, Evening – Dr Jaap Timmer

This unit examines the uses of culture in professional settings at various levels, from the management of urban communities and interpersonal conflicts to the international strategies of corporations and governments. The objective of this unit is to train students for situations in a variety of contexts in which decisions have to be made based on contested cultural claims.

ANTH715 – INTERNATIONAL AID AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

Session 1, Evening – A/Prof Chris Lyttleton

This unit considers development studies from two interrelated perspectives: anthropology of development, which examines theoretical approaches to development over the past 50 years, and development anthropology, which engages with contemporary practices within development programs. Importantly it explores how these two broad paradigms feed into changing approaches to donor-driven project implementation. Using case studies to illustrate the complexity of development processes, we consider how major donors and NGOs operate, gender empowerment, mobility and health vulnerability, development-induced displacement, and changing approaches to social impact mitigation.

ANTH716 – CULTURE, ILLNESS AND HEALING

Session 1, Evening – Dr Aaron Denham

This unit examines the cultural and socio-economic dimensions of disease and health. Notions of disease causality and healing practices vary enormously across societies, knowledge of which is crucial to the field of international public health. We look at how anthropological knowledge and methods can be used in applied settings, for example, to improve communication between health
practitioners and patients. We also address questions in critical medical anthropology, such as: How do global inequalities and violence affect health in developing countries? What larger social transformations accompany the rise of biomedicine, including recent biomedical technologies?

ANTH751 – METHODOLOGY IN LOCAL AND COMMUNITY STUDIES
Session 1, Evening – Anthropology Staff & Dr Jaap Timmer
This unit introduces methodological strategies used in community research. Quantitative strategies, such as questionnaire and survey methods, will be compared with qualitative ones, such as participant observation. The epistemological and ethical dimensions of methodology and the effects of political imperatives on the conduct of research will be discussed. It includes four weeks of community-based research.

MRES700 – RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS
Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Faculty Staff
This unit aims to enable students to:
- Communicate research effectively in different modes for different audiences;
- Understand what it means to conduct and report responsibly in their discipline;
- Participate in academic peer review practices; and
- Appreciate the uses and relative merits of traditional and contemporary research communication practices.

FOAR700 – RESEARCH FRONTIERS 1
Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Anthropology Staff
This unit is delivered by departments and provides an opportunity for students to engage with leading-edge research in their discipline. Students will acquire advanced disciplinary knowledge, how about how research is carried out in a disciplinary area and will demonstrate competence in the application of research skills to the disciplinary area.

ANTH702 – CORE ISSUES IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY II
Compulsory – Session 2, Day – Anthropology Staff & Dr Jaap Timmer
This is the second core anthropology unit that provide a grounding in theoretical, methodological and interpretive issues that are currently being debated by anthropologists. These two courses form the core of the anthropology specialisation for MRes. Issues covered will vary year to year according to contemporary developments in anthropology and the interests of the course convener.

FOAR704 – RELIGION, SECULARISM AND SOCIETY
Session 2, Day – Dr Gabriele Marranci
This unit will provide both a historical and contemporary comparative look at the ways that different societies deal with religion in the public sphere, freedom of religion, and the concept of “the secular”. An important aspect that the course considers is that there is no single way of being “secular” or religious within human societies but, rather, varieties of complex systems. A close study of such difference provides a unique and valuable line of sight into comparative studies of how different traditions have developed their social political structure. In recent years, in particular within western countries and new emerging economies, some of the most interesting contemporary debates have arisen out of questions about freedom of religion, its limits, and the relationship between religion and the state. Drawing on case studies and through the review and discussion of scholarship within the field of social sciences, this seminar will provide an introduction to such complex debates.

ANTH721 – INDIGENOUS INTERESTS AND IDENTITIES
Session 2, Evening – Dr Eve Vincent
This unit examines policies and practices in relation to Aboriginal community development in both remote and urban areas. Current federal and state policies in relation to welfare, health, land and legal issues will be discussed. Aboriginal viewpoints and the interaction of Aboriginal organisations with bureaucracies and welfare agencies will be examined.

ANTH731 – WEALTH POVERTY AND CONSUMPTION
Session 2, Evening – Dr Chris Vasantkumar
Since the fall of the Soviet Bloc and the move of China toward an open market, ‘capitalism’ looks to many people like the inevitable outcome of unbending human nature. In fact, humans have found many ways to organise production, distribution, and consumption; even within free markets, certain spheres of life follow different logics. Market-based economies have faced many alternative forms of organisation, and they make very specific, peculiar demands of participants. This course examines the cultural dimensions of capitalism, exploring issues such as forms of wealth, the value of money, customs of trade, the implications of commoditisation, the corporation as social organisation, forms of distribution, the creation of human ‘needs’, globalisation and everyday life, investment and anticipation of the future, advertising as meaning-making, and the forms of irrationality that exist in diverse economies.

ANTH735 – GLOBAL HEALTH
Session 2, Evening – Dr Aaron Denham & A/Prof Chris Lyttleton
Global health recognizes a holistic understanding of health that transcends borders and encompasses the links and transnational movements of people, materials and ideas. This class offers a framework for understanding the ways health and disease intersect within a range of global contexts, institutions and practices. In order to affect change at the individual, community and global levels, we need to appreciate how human biology and health are shaped by the larger contexts in which they are embedded and the dynamic and uneven circulation of resources, technology, culture, values and people. We will examine the role of social, political-economic and environmental forces that shape patterns and the distribution of disease and health across communities and take a critical perspective when examining the underlying value systems in biomedical science, policy, health interventions, and global health practice. Topics include health determinants, measurements and trends; key actors in global health efforts; women’s and children’s health; communicable and non-communicable diseases; global mental health; nutrition; pharmaceuticals; disasters and humanitarian emergencies; science, technology and global health; and, health system design and evaluation.

CONTACTS
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Information in this flyer is current as of 18 August 2017