

Internships and Independent Research in Anthropology

Internship and independent study courses can greatly enrich the educational experience. GW anthropology students commonly use these courses to explore subjects that particularly interest them and to acquire valuable experience.

Independent study

The independent study courses are Anth 195 (for undergraduates) and 295 (for graduates). They are appropriate for any independent work that is not an internship or research for a master's thesis. Students pursue in-depth research under a faculty member's guidance, which includes work for graduation with special honors or to complete a Cotlow project.

Students registering for Anth 195 or 295 must submit a proposal form to the Department, signed by whoever is supervising their work, by the end of the first week of class. There are separate forms for undergraduate and graduate work, both of them available from the Department office or website. The main purpose of these forms is to make sure that the work undertaken is anthropological in nature and that the student and supervisor have agreed at the outset on the work to be done.

Grades for these courses are not assigned directly by the person supervising the work, but by the undergraduate or graduate advisor who has been given that task. The research supervisor must therefore submit an evaluation of the work to the appropriate advisor at the end of the course.

Note that Anth 195 and 295 are variable credit. If you do not specify the number for credits you want when you register, the system will enter one credit by default). For details, see the Registrar's website or the printed schedule of classes.

Link to online form for undergraduate research: <http://www.gwu.edu/~anth/docs/195proposal.pdf>

Link to online form for graduate research: <http://www.gwu.edu/~anth/docs/295proposal.pdf>.

Internships

The regular guidelines for internships appear below. These general criteria may vary according to the guidance of your faculty internship mentor.

Museum internships. Students (undergraduate or graduate) who wish to have an internship at a museum must register for Anth 236. Before they complete registration, they should obtain a special packet of forms from the Department office or website. One of the forms, the Statement of Expectations, should be signed by the internship supervisor and returned to Prof. Jeffrey Blomster by the end of the first week of class. A museum internship must deal with an anthropological problem or topic; internships limited to clerical work, event hosting, etc., are not acceptable.

Museum interns perform at least 10 hours of relevant work for 15 weeks (assuming they are registered for three hours of credit). Besides doing work at the museum, interns write a 10-15-page report that describes the work done, describes the organization, and relates their internship experience to a significant theoretical problem in anthropology. This is an academic paper and should contain a bibliography. The student's grade is based both on the recommendations made by the internship supervisor on the Final Evaluation of Internship form and on this paper. The paper must be submitted before the end of the final exam period for the semester in which the work was done.

The grade of I (Incomplete) is not given for internships. If the work schedule does not permit completion of an internship within one semester, the student should request an IPG (In Progress). Once the student has completed the work and been assigned a grade, the IPG disappears from the record.

Note that Anth 236 is variable credit. If you do not specify the number for credits you want when you register, the system will enter one credit by default). For details, see the Registrar's website or the printed schedule of classes.

Link to the forms for museum internships: <http://www.gwu.edu/~anth/docs/internships.pdf>

Development internships. Graduate students concentrating in International Development are urged to gain professional experience and insights through an internship with a relevant organization. An internship is not, however, required. Students who wish to get GW credit (Anth 224) for internship experience may do so after consulting with Prof. Barbara Miller about the expectations. Profs. Miller, Stephen Lubkemann, Robert Shepherd and other Anthropology faculty, as relevant, may serve as the student's Anth 224 advisor.

General guidelines for three Anth 224 credits: The internship/job should involve around 100 hours of professional involvement; the student should keep "fieldnotes" (a diary); the student should reflect on his/her experiences while doing the internship; and, at the end, the student should submit a 12-page double-spaced report (on the organization; his/her tasks and accomplishments; possible anthropological insights/critique of the organization and work; possible attachments such as trip reports, meeting notes, newsletters edited, or any other supporting material). The key points of Anth 224 are to work in an organization for a substantial period of time, to reflect in an anthropological way on the experience, and to report on it in a brief and professional way.