

Master of Arts in Anthropology
Humans and the Environment Graduate Specialization - Portfolio Option, Plan B
Department of Anthropology

Human-environment interactions are complex, two-way, iterative processes: humans transform the earth and natural environments impact peoples and cultures. Studying relationships between humans and the environment has a long tradition in anthropology and geography, and such traditions are particularly relevant to unraveling the human-environmental dynamics that take place in deep time, i.e., over the course of human evolutionary history, as well as those occurring in the context of rapid globalization. Drawing on insights from this dynamic in the past and present can provide platforms from which to better understand cultural and environmental sustainability. The Humans and the Environment graduate specialization in anthropology helps to prepare students for applied and/or academic careers that can address topics ranging broadly from human population ecology and the impact of climatic fluctuations during the Plio-Pleistocene to today’s most pressing environmental issues at local to global scales.

The portfolio option requires 36 hours of coursework, with a minimum of 16 credits in 500 or higher level courses. Of these 16 credits, at least 12 credits must be in 500 or higher level regular courses (a regular course is one whose last two digits are from 00 through 81). Classes are generally chosen in consultation with the student’s advisor and are meant to relate closely to each student’s own particular goals and projects. The categorical breakdown outlined below sketches the options possible within this specialization.

In addition to coursework, preparation of a final portfolio is also required for this degree option. A portfolio will generally contain at least four pieces of original work completed by the student while fulfilling degree requirements. Typically, one or more of these pieces will reflect practical work and/or research completed in conjunction with an environment-related agency or organization. A theory statement is also generally expected as an inclusion in the portfolio, as is some form of structured analysis of an environmental issue (for example, a structured analysis of interviews or survey data). Longer research or technical papers, typically expanded from coursework, are also acceptable. Portfolios should reflect work completed and skills acquired in fulfillment of the MA requirements that could be presented to a potential employer.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Cr.</u>
I. Core Course Requirements (10 credits):		
ANTH 500	Development of Anthropological Theory	3
	Research Methods ¹	3
GRAD 544	Ethical Conduct of Research	1
ANTH 695	Independent Study	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL	10

¹Select one course in methods from department list with approval of advisor and committee.

II. Human-Environment Interactions Focused Courses (12 credits):⁴

ANTH 515	Culture and Environment	3
ANTH 529	Anthropology and Sustainable Development	3
ANTH 530	Human-Environment Interactions	3
ANTH 532	The Culture of Disaster	3
ANTH 573	Paleoclimate and Human Evolution	3
ANTH 450	Hunter-Gatherer Ecology	3
ANTH 453	Impacts on Ancient Environments	3
ANTH 446	New Orleans and the Caribbean	3
GR 410	Climate Change: Science, Policy, Implications	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL	12

III. Supporting Courses (3-6 credits)^{2,4}

ANTH 679	Applications of International Development	3
ANTH 572	Human Origins	3
ANTH 359	Colorado Prehistory	3
ANTH 414	Development in Indian Country	3
ANTH 455	Great Plains Archaeology	3
ANTH 472	Human Biology	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL	3-6

²Any methods course listed in section I may be included in III: Supporting Courses if not taken to fulfill the methods requirement.

IV. Outside Courses (9-12 credits)^{3,4}

ECOL592	Interdisciplinary Seminar in Ecology	1-3
POLS 462	Globalization, Sustainability, and Justice	3
SOC 464	Environmental Justice	3
NR 535	Action for Sustainable Behavior	<u>3</u>
	TOTAL	9-12

Program total = minimum 36 credits

³Or other appropriate courses identified with student advisor

⁴See department for most up to date course list.