



## **MRes in Anthropology**

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**This handbook provides core information specific to the MRes Anthropology programme. Other key information can be found in the Postgraduate Handbook located at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/anthropology/current-students>**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This MRes provides students with a thorough grounding in a wide range of social science or biological methodologies and methods, an advanced knowledge of contemporary theoretical and ethnographic questions in anthropology, and training in the skills necessary to utilise postgraduate experience in the professional world. The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the epistemological context of research design and to enable them to formulate an independent research project, and the ethnographic and practical skills to carry it out. Upon completion of the MRes we expect students to be highly competent professionals, who will either continue to MPhil/PhD or who will be well equipped to apply their knowledge of social science methodologies and methods and their specific anthropological expertise in a range of professional settings.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The MRes is composed of a number of courses grouped under four headings:

- Core Course: Ethnographic Area Directed Reading
- Research Methods and Transferable Skills
- Specialist Taught Courses: Theoretical, Regional and Conceptual Analysis
- Dissertation

## 1. Core Course: Ethnographic Area Directed Reading (ANTHGR04)

This component of the course will provide an introduction to independent research under the guidance of your supervisor. The student should develop an advanced knowledge of the context and literature related to the proposed research topic and have an opportunity to demonstrate independence and initiative in selecting and defining a research project.

## 2. Research Methods and Transferable Skills (ANTHGR05)

This component of the course consists of the following:

- Social Science Research Methods (Non Anthropological approaches *and* a course in Statistics designed for qualitative and not quantitative social scientists)
- Anthropological Research Methods (Staff and student led weekly seminar in Term One, see page 9 for further information)
- Research Design and Presentation (weekly seminar in Term Two)
- Transferable Skills and Professional Development (elective courses from the Graduate School and elsewhere selected at: <http://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/list-courses.pht?action=shs>)
- Weekly Departmental Seminar in Anthropology plus selected specialist seminar
- Language Training as appropriate

**2a)** The SSRM course consists of a minimum of 5 weeks of lectures on general social science methods with associated independent reading. *Minimally* this might mean the moodle course at [http://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/course-details.pht?course\\_ID=1909](http://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/course-details.pht?course_ID=1909)

Another, non-virtual course we strongly recommend is Philosophy of Social Science Workshop Programme ([http://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/course-details.pht?course\\_ID=1172](http://courses.grad.ucl.ac.uk/course-details.pht?course_ID=1172))

You will receive an email from the Graduate School to your UCL account when this course is timetabled and you will need to sign up at once to ensure a place on this popular programme. The aim of both of these courses is for you to become familiar with *non-anthropological* approaches and understand the approaches of disciplines that do not rely on ethnography.

**2b)** You are also obliged to take an introductory course in statistics designed for researchers whose primary methods are qualitative and ethnographic.

We put particular stress on the acquisition of statistical literacy as part of a growing expectation that doctoral research will produce some statistically analysable data. We are also determined to ensure that our students are capable of reading and working with other forms of social scientific enquiry. To this end we run this specialised seminar programme. The aims of this course are to a) eliminate phobia to numbers (in so far as this is possible!) b) to enable students to gather light statistical data as part of their fieldwork; to recognise certain statistical strategies as part of understanding statistical *reasoning*; to identify weaknesses in certain approaches; to begin the process of becoming 'literate' statistically.

**2c)** You will attend the Research, Design and Presentation seminar alongside the MPhil students. This seminar gives students the opportunity to develop their overall research plan as well as practice presenting their project to a group in a supervised environment.

Together, these course elements provide a broad base of generic research skills, professional development and specific anthropological research techniques (tailored to the specific sub-disciplinary specialism followed by the student).

Students also gain exposure to a range of modes for the presentation of research findings and to the different canons of evidence employed in different sub-disciplinary fields, and specific language training at a level sufficient to facilitate pilot level research for a dissertation.

#### **2d) Transferable Skills and Professional Development**

- Personal and Professional Management Skills - residential weekend skills course (please sign up early as this intensely popular course – which offers you a rare chance to mix with peers from totally different parts of UCL - fills up extraordinarily fast) and pre- and post-course seminars. Presentation skills lecture and workshop
- Completion of Research Students Log

#### **2e) Language Training, Departmental Seminar**

Language training is available at UCL or other institutes and colleges of the University of London should students need to learn a new language for field or library research. The Departmental Seminar provides training in the core academic activity of intellectual critique and constructive engagement with the theories and explanations of other scholars.

### **3. Specialist Taught Courses: Theoretical, Conceptual and Regional Analysis**

This component of the course consists of TWO option courses drawn from Masters Course Options. Together these course elements constitute an extensive preparation for research in the specific sub-field of anthropology in which the student intends to specialise, an in-depth knowledge of a particular area or set of topics, and a further flexible element to complement or expand the students' existing knowledge.

### **4. The Dissertation (GR99)**

The major element of this component of the course is the dissertation itself. Students will meet regularly with their supervisor for discussions that will help shape the research project. Supervisors will advise students on background readings and other relevant literature and help them develop their research design and plans throughout the year.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT**

### **1) GR04. Core Component. Ethnographic Area - Directed Reading, OR Research Topics in Biological Anthropology**

- Critical Literature Review – 2,500 words [due 1<sup>st</sup> day of Term Three]

This is worth 8.3% of your total mark for the MRes.

### **2) GR05 Methods Component**

#### **Social Science Research Methods Statistics and Anthropological Methods Courses**

For the statistics module, students are assessed by:

- Portfolio* of work based on practical exercises relating to the weekly training (20%). [during Term Two]

- Exam testing your familiarity with statistical approaches in social science (30%). [end of Term Two]
- Methods essay (2,500 words) based on methods training undertaken (50%) [due after Reading Week in Term Two]

GR05 counts for 16.6% of your total mark for the MRes course. There is no assessment for the selection of general SSRM lectures that you take.

### **3) Optional Courses Component**

- Students complete two optional modules. Mode of assessment is determined by the Instructor of each module (each module is worth 8.3% of the total mark)

Assessments are normally due at the end of the term in which the course is taught. This element is worth 16.6% of your total mark for the MRes.

### **4) GR99 Dissertation (see below for more details)**

- 17,000 words (inclusive of notes, exclusive of appendices) [due early-September]
- Worth 58.5% of the total mark for the MRes.

### **Transferable Skills and Professional Development**

Not formally assessed but attendance is required at the events listed above.

### **Language Training, Research Design and Presentation Course, Departmental Seminar**

These are not formally assessed by the Department but regular attendance is expected.

### **Purpose and Scope of the Dissertation**

The MRes dissertation is a document of 17,000 words based on independent research and thought. This is an absolute limit which may not be exceeded without penalty. This 17,000 word limit **INCLUDES** all footnotes, captions and tables that are presented in the main text. The abstract, acknowledgements, appendices (such as data sets, charts, sample questionnaires, glossaries and texts) and references (i.e. the bibliography at the end of the dissertation) are **NOT** included in the word count. In many cases the dissertation will report on original data collected by the student in order to address a particular empirical question within the scope of the degree. Such a dissertation will include a section detailing the practical or theoretical justification for this particular piece of work, a description of the methodology, appropriate analysis of the results, and a conclusion. In a minority of cases students may do a library-based dissertation, which brings together the different strands of the degree at a theoretical level. This is not usually considered to be appropriate for the MRes and will only be permitted under special circumstances after discussion with the course tutors.

### **Supervision**

Students must be accepted by an appropriate supervisor in order to be admitted to the MRes degree. A proposal of 2-3 pages outlining the project to be undertaken forms part of the application and enables prospective supervisors to decide if they can guide the student.

During the first and second terms students meet approximately every three weeks with their supervisor to develop their project by discussing relevant literature and data sets, considering applicable theories and methodologies and identifying a fieldsite. Information on possible sources of funding for fieldwork will be made available in the Department and the

supervisor can advise on grant applications. *It is the student's responsibility to secure any additional funds that may be necessary to conduct field research.*

During the spring term students will present their research projects, especially the methodological aspects, to the Research Design and Presentation group. By the end of this term each student will have drawn up a detailed time plan for fieldwork (if appropriate), research, analysis and writing over the summer.

Supervisors should be available for occasional consultation over the summer vacation via email or in person. The MRes tutor will provide back-up supervision where necessary. It is the student's responsibility to find out when supervisors will be available during the summer. You may expect your supervisor to read and comment on a full draft of the dissertation provided it is submitted at least four weeks before the final deadline.

### **Options registration:**

At the beginning of the first Term you will be asked to select your specialist options for the year from the list of available courses. If you are in doubt about what to choose, you can consult the MRes tutor. You must register your choices by entering them onto Portico no later than **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October**. Further information on selecting modules is available at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/new-students/select-modules>

Any choices not registered by the deadline should be communicated by email to Jill Reese ([anthro-pgr@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:anthro-pgr@ucl.ac.uk)).

### **Deadlines:**

The deadline for submission of the dissertation is **4pm, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018**. Two spiral bound hard copies must be submitted to the Departmental Office on the ground floor of 14 Taviton Street.

The assessed essays for optional courses must be submitted electronically by the end of term in which it is taught via Moodle. Some modules may still require hard copy submission and you should refer to the course outlines or ask the module tutor/s for clarification. The Methods Essay is to be submitted on the Monday after the first reading week in Term Two, and the Critical Literature Review is to be submitted at the beginning of Term Three. The statistics module is evaluated by weekly assignments during Term One, and an exam near the end of Term One.

**Note: There must not be any substantial repetition of material between examined essays submitted for the taught elements of the course, nor between these essays and the dissertation.**

## RECOMMENDED READING:

### Social Science Research Methods:

- Bernard H R 2006 *Research methods in anthropology, qualitative and quantitative approaches*. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Altamira
- Gillies D 2000 *Philosophical theories of probability*. London: Routledge.
- Marsh C 1988 *Exploring Data. An introduction to data analysis for social scientists*. Cambridge: Polity Press
- H. Russell Bernard *Methods in Social and Cultural Anthropology* (4th ed.)
- Burton, D (ed) 2000 *Research training for social scientists* Sage, London
- Seale, C (ed) 1998 *Researching society and culture* Sage, London

### Anthropological Methods Course (Social)

- G. Allan and C. Skinner (eds.) (1991) *Handbook for Research Students in the Social Sciences*. London: Falmer Press
- S. Coleman & P. Collins ed. *Locating the Field: Space, Place and Context in Anthropology*.
- Andreas Wimmer and Reinhart Kössler (eds.) *Understanding Change. Models, Methodologies and Metaphors. (Important cross disciplinary perspectives)*,
- C. Bailey (1995) *A Guide to Field Research*.
- R. Burgess (1984) *In the Field: an introduction to field research*. London: Unwin Hyman
- R. Burgess (1993) *Research Methods*. Walton-on-Thames: Thomas Nelson
- D. Burton (ed.) (2000) *Research Training for Social Scientists* London: Sage
- H. Russell Bernard (1995) *Research Methods in Anthropology*. Walnut Creek: AltaMira/Sage.
- D. Bell, P. Caplan and W.J.Karim (1993) *Gendered Fields: women men and ethnography*. London: Routledge
- M. Conaway (1986) *Self, sex and gender in cross-cultural fieldwork*. Champagne Ill: Illinois University Press
- R. Ellen (1984) *Ethnographic Research: a guide to general conduct*. London: Academic Press
- M. Hammersley and P Atkinson (1995) *Ethnography: principles in practice*. (2nd Edition). London: Routledge
- T. May (1993) *Social Research: issues, methods and process*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- C. Warren (1998) *Gender issues in Field Research*. Newbury Park. CA: Sage

### Transferable Skills and Professional Development

- Brante, T., S. Fuller and W. Lynch. (2002) *Controversial Science: From Content to Contention*
- Chalmers, A.F (1999) *What Is This Thing Called Science?* Buckingham: Open University Press
- Greenberg, Daniel S. (2001) *Science, Money and Politics: Political Triumph and Ethical Erosion*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press 8
- Harman, G. (1999) "Australian Science and Technology Academics and University Industry Links", *Higher Education* 38: 83-103.
- Spier, R.E. (2002) *Science and Technology Ethics*. London: Routledge 9

# Anthropological Methods Course: Autumn Term 2017

Course Coordinators: Jed Stevenson [e.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:e.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk) and Dalia Iskander [d.iskander@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:d.iskander@ucl.ac.uk)

**Lectures:** Wednesdays 2-3pm: Archaeology G6 LT

**Practicals:** Wednesdays 3-5 – various places; please see Moodle site for each week

**Timetable, list of topics and details of break out groups for each week will be posted on moodle site.**

**Moodle Page:** <https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=14724>

## Notes on Preparing Your Dissertation

### Topic

Students should discuss topics as early as possible with the course tutor, who will arrange suitable supervisors for the dissertation. The student and supervisor should develop a specific title for the dissertation, which must be notified to the course tutor as soon as possible and certainly before the meeting of the Board of Examiners early in the second term.

### The Text

The dissertation should be 17,000 words in length (This **DOES NOT** include: abstract, acknowledgements, tables, appendices and bibliography but **DOES** include footnotes).

**TWO** copies of the dissertation should be produced and submitted in spiral bound format. Good quality photocopies may be used. One electronic copy must be submitted via Moodle.

### Presentation

The dissertation should be presented in a form generally suitable for publication in an appropriate scholarly journal. The standard of presentation should be high with particular emphasis on neatness, relevance and organisation of material, and, where relevant, suitability of illustrations. The text should be typed on A4 paper, be double-spaced and there should be a 3.5cm margin on the left side and a 2cm margin on the right side of each page.

The following should be included:

### Structure

ALL the following should be included (as appropriate):

Title page (example on p.131)	}	
Abstract	}	
List of Contents	}	
List of Illustrations (if relevant)	}	all these to precede the main text

Preface (optional)	}	
Acknowledgements	}	
Bibliography		to follow the main text

The main text should consist of an introduction, structured chapters and a concluding chapter. Every page of the text should be numbered, including any illustrations and the bibliography, and each illustration should itself be numbered (e.g. fig.1).

In special circumstances, it may be possible to accept a dissertation that is not presented in this manner, but any variation must be agreed in advance, through the supervisors, with the Chair of the Board of Examiners.

### **Bibliography and References**

A bibliography should be included that lists the information, both published and unpublished, used while preparing the dissertation. The information should be listed alphabetically by the names of the authors or editors following an accepted set of conventions.

### **The Abstract**

A brief summary (not exceeding 200 words) of the topic, and of the result and conclusions, must be given on a separate page headed 'Abstract', following the title page.

### **The Preface**

The preface is an optional element, but it can be useful in conveying to the readers explanatory comment that one might express verbally if one were delivering the dissertation in person. It is an opportunity to describe informally, and to justify those aspects of the topic that the dissertation attempts to cover, and those aspects that it does not. It may also be useful to use the preface to explain to the reader the rationale behind the organisation of the dissertation. It would be acceptable to describe the approach and context of each of the chapters, if this might be of assistance to the reader in assessing the dissertation. The preface might also serve as a place to acknowledge sources of assistance and advice, if these acknowledgements are not extensive enough to justify a section of their own.

### **Acknowledgements**

Any help or information received from your supervisors or anyone else must be fully acknowledged.

### **Plagiarism**

Your attention is drawn to the following statement from the College regarding plagiarism. "The College is subject to the University of London's General Regulations for Internal Students and the policy detailed below has been drawn up in accordance with those regulations"

You should note that UCL has now signed up to use a sophisticated detection system (Turn-It-In) to scan work for evidence of plagiarism and the Department intends to use this for assessed coursework. This system gives access to billions of sources worldwide, including websites and journals, as well as work previously submitted to the Department, UCL and other universities.

Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of another person's work thoughts or words, or artefacts, or software as though they were a student's own. Any quotation from the published or unpublished works of other persons must, therefore, be clearly identified as such by being

placed in quotation marks, and students should identify their sources as accurately and fully as possible. A series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism just as much as does a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. Equally, if a student summarises another person's ideas of judgements, figures, diagrams, or software, a reference to that person in the text must be made and the work referred to must be included in the bibliography.

Recourse to the services of "ghost-writing" agencies (for example in the preparation of essays or reports) or of outside word-processing agencies which offer "correction/improvement of English" is strictly forbidden, and students who make use of the services of such agencies render themselves liable for an academic penalty. Where part of an examination consists of "take away" papers, essays or other work written in a student's own time, or a coursework assessment, the work submitted must be the candidates' own.

For some assessments it is also forbidden to reproduce material which a student has used in other work/assessment for the course or programme concerned. Students should make themselves aware of their department's rules on this "self-plagiarism". If in doubt, students should consult their Personal tutor or another appropriate tutor.

***Failure to observe any of the provisions of this policy or of the approved departmental guidelines constitutes an examination offence under the University Regulations. Examination offences will normally be treated as cheating or irregularities. Under these Regulations students found to have committed an offence may be excluded from all further examinations of the University or of the College or of both.***

### **Submission**

**TWO** copies of the dissertation should be submitted no later than **10<sup>th</sup> September, 2017** to the Postgraduate Coordinator, Department of Anthropology. Dissertations will be date stamped on receipt.

As with coursework, a Moodle electronic copy must also be submitted. You should follow the same procedure as described in the Moodle Submission Guide (See above).

You must submit your dissertation under your specific degree programme dissertation code (ANTHGR99). Please note that the deadline for submission is the same for both the printed and the electronic copy.

*Extensions:* Requests for short extensions (up to two weeks) will normally be considered only when there are very strong grounds (such as documented serious ill health). Such requests should be made in writing to Dr Caroline Garaway (c.garaway@ucl.ac.uk).

*Deferrals:* In exceptional circumstances students may be permitted to defer submission of the dissertation for one year, but formal application for advance approval of such deferral must be made on the appropriate form by **1<sup>st</sup> August 2016**.

*The attached form (see below) must be submitted with the dissertation.* Students are warned that they are required to sign this form, thereby certifying that the work submitted is their own and that any quotation or illustration used from the published or unpublished work of other persons has been fully acknowledged.

Dissertations should be **bound** using the comb or spiral binding system and should have an acetate cover on the front (so that the title page can be seen). The University of London Union in Malet Street offers such a service at reasonable rates.

### **After the examinations**

*Return of Dissertations to candidates.* One copy of the dissertation can be returned to candidates if they provide a stamped and addressed envelope when the dissertation is submitted.

*Failure:* Candidates who have failed in just one of the written papers or coursework-assessed papers may usually continue with the dissertation unless advised otherwise by their tutor. If a dissertation is submitted and passed, the candidate will then only have to re-sit the written paper or coursework failed and not to re-enter all the papers for the MRes. Examinations re-sits take place at the same point the following year. Candidates who fail the dissertation may re-enter and submit a dissertation in the following year. In the event of failure, please discuss your position with the course tutor and your supervisors.

*Publication of Dissertations:* Dissertations are part of an official University examination and as such copyright is vested in the University. Students wishing to publish all or part of their dissertation should first seek the permission of the Chairman of the Board of Examiners. If UCL is mentioned in connection with the publication, the following forms of words should be used:

“This was (or formed part of) a dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of MRes Anthropology of University College London in (date).”

### **Consultation of UCL copy**

An electronic copy of each dissertation is held by the Chair of the Board of Examiners for a minimum of two years; and they may be consulted on request by other students provided you have indicated your consent on the dissertation submission form.

## **SAMPLE TITLE PAGE**

### **MRes in Anthropology Dissertation**

Sample title page: the wording given here must be included

**TITLE**

**AUTHOR**

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of MRes in Anthropology (UCL)  
of the University of London in 2018

Word Count .....

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Note:** This dissertation is an unrevised  
examination copy for consultation only  
and it should not be quoted or cited  
without the permission of the  
Chair of the Board of Examiners  
for the MRes in Anthropology (UCL).

**SUBMISSION FORM**

**University College London**

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Name of Student:** .....

**Degree:** .....

**Exact Title of Dissertation (in full):** .....  
.....  
.....

I certify that the work submitted for the above dissertation is my own and that any quotation from the published or unpublished work of other persons has been duly acknowledged.

Please tick as appropriate:

**I hereby give permission** for my dissertation to be used as electronic reference material for subsequent Masters students in the Anthropology Department.

**I do not give permission** for my dissertation to be used as electronic reference material for subsequent Masters students in the Anthropology Department.

**Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....

**THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE DISSERTATION**

## **CRITERIA FOR AWARD OF AN MRES DEGREE**

i) For an award of a MRes degree students must have completed 180 UCL credits or the equivalent 1800 learning hours and obtained an overall average mark of 50% or greater which must include a mark of 50% or greater for the dissertation.

ii) A maximum of 25% of the programme's taught element (i.e. excluding the dissertation) may be condoned at 40 – 49%.

iii) A student may be required to make specified amendments to their dissertation within one month provided that:

a) The amendments are minor and the dissertation is otherwise adequate.

b) The student has satisfied all other requirements for the award of a Masters degree.

iv) The award of Pass with Merit will be given to students on the MRes if they have satisfied all of the following criteria, but do not meet the criteria for an award of distinction:

a) The overall weighted average mark over 180 credits is 60% or higher; and

b) The mark for the dissertation is 60% or higher.

c) There are no marks below 50%, no condoned marks, no re-sit marks, and all marks are first attempts.

v) The award of Pass with Distinction must be given to students on the MRes if they have satisfied all of the following criteria:

a) The overall weighted average mark over 180 credits is 70% or higher.

b) The mark for the dissertation is 70% or higher.

c) There are no marks below 50%, no condoned marks, no re-sit marks, and all marks are first attempts.