

## Archaeology

Archaeologists study the material remains (the buildings, tools, pottery, and other artifacts) of societies in order to understand cultures and to infer the processes of cultural change.

Anthropological archaeologists are usually, but not exclusively, concerned with the prehistoric cultures (those without written records) of our early ancestors, people who existed before the emergence of agriculture, the domestication of animals, and the use of metals.

## Biological Anthropology

Biological anthropology, also called physical anthropology, is the subfield of anthropology that focuses on the biological aspects of human beings, especially how they relate to cultural practices, evolution, and the environment. The subfield itself is divided into three major branches which often overlap: paleoanthropology (the study of fossil humans and near relatives); primatology (the study of primates -- humans, apes, monkeys, and prosimians); and the study of modern human variation and adaptation.

## Cultural Anthropology

Cultural anthropologists seek to understand different groups and societies by examining their culture from a holistic perspective, which means the broadest possible context through which the complexities, interconnections, and interdependencies of culture can be comprehended. Culture can be defined as the entire collection of a group or society's values, beliefs, traditions, perceptions, and behaviors. It encompasses stated as well as unconscious principles by which groups define their lives and the world around them. Every aspect of a group or society -- from family structure, social control, political and economic structures, to religious, artistic, and linguistic principles, even the way we dress and the food we eat -- is part of culture.

## Contact Us



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Wichita State Department of  
Anthropology

## Admissions & Tuition

[wichita.edu/admissions](http://wichita.edu/admissions)



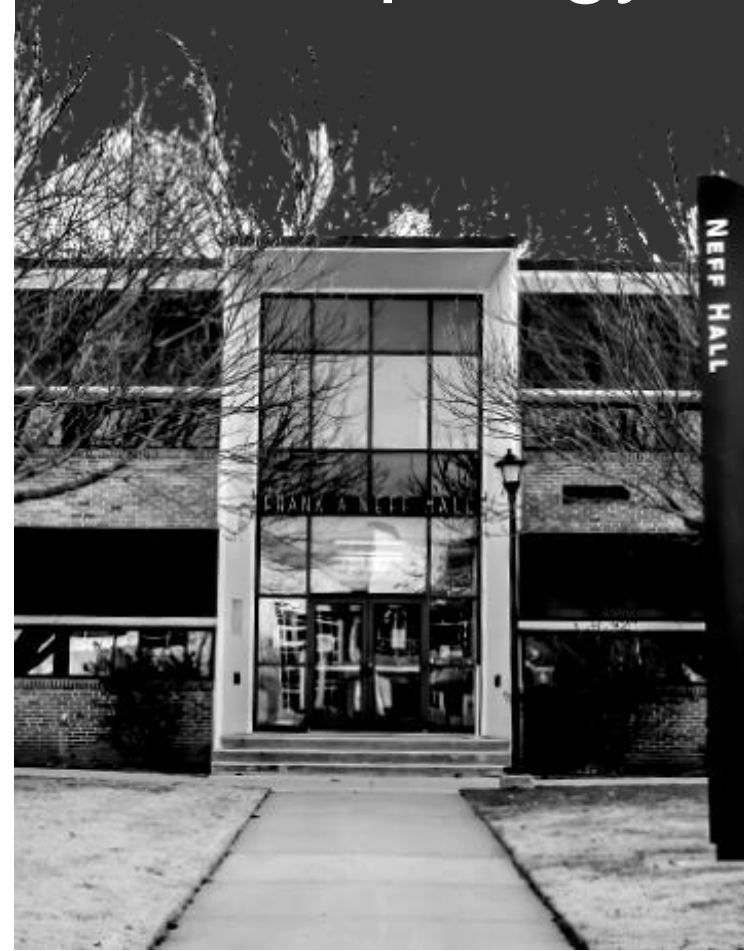
WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Anthropology

# Wichita State University

## Department of Anthropology



# OUR FACULTY

Anthropology at Wichita State University offers a great selection of courses taught by faculty that are actively conducting their own research. They provide various learning and research opportunities for students.



The department archaeologists specialize in the Great Plains and in food archaeology. Field school opportunities for both are offered during the summer.

The cultural anthropologists in our department engage students in research within the fields of religion, linguistics, visual anthropology, and urban culture.

The department biological anthropologist provides students with hands-on experience in osteology, forensics, and lab techniques.



## LOWELL D. HOLMES MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Dr. Lowell D. Holmes founded the anthropology museum in 1967. The museum houses important collections representing cultures from around the world. It also offers an opportunity for students to volunteer and receive hands-on experience. WSU offers a graduate level Museum Studies Certificate that allows graduate students to learn how to properly create an exhibit as well as to learn the basics of artifact curation.

# GET INVOLVED WITH WHAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS TO OFFER

## Anthropology Club

The club is devoted to anthropology and its related subjects. At meetings, club members discuss anthropological matters, plan events, listen to guest speakers, attend field trips, and show films.

## Lambda Alpha

Lambda Alpha is the anthropological honor society. It supports anthropology majors during their studies and prepares them for their future careers.

## Etzanao Field School

The anthropology department hosts an annual archaeological field school that provides experience in excavation and mapping techniques.

## Skeleton Acres Research Facility

Also known as SARF, offers a field site where students conduct forensic and biological anthropology research.