



HONOURS PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 2026



University
of Victoria

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Xwsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



HOSTS

- Dr. Mélissa Gauthier: Associate teaching professor, undergraduate and honours advisor
- Jindra Belanger
 - Graduate & Undergraduate program assistant
- Past honours students (2026)



ANTH HONOURS PROGRAM

- Apply by January 15th in your 3rd year
- Take in the spring term of your 4th year
- Attend honours seminar (ANTH 499) from January to April
- Work one-on-one with a faculty member on a research project of your choice
- Write a paper & present at a conference



BENEFITS OF HONOURS PROGRAM

- Study anthropology more intensively and independently
- Enhances your research skills – asset for professional career and/or grad school
- Spend time in a small group of like-minded students
 - New networking opportunities
 - Supporting and helping each other
- Traditionally considered an excellent preparation for grad school (not a requirement)



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS



To graduate with an Honours degree, students must complete

- all requirements of the [BA](#) or [BSc](#) major in Anthropology
- Complete 1 of:
 - [ANTH400A](#) - History of Anthropological Theory (1.5)
 - [ANTH400B](#) - Current Trends in Anthropological Theory (1.5)
- Complete [ANTH499](#) - Honours Seminar (1.5)
- Complete 4.5 units from ANTH 300 – 499 (excluding ANTH 400A, 400B, 499)
 - 1.5 units of Method and Theory
 - 1.5 units of 300- or 400-level ANTH coursework in preparation for Honours' research, to be chosen in consultation with the Honours adviser
- ❖ Honours students complete the above 7.5 units of ANTH coursework in-lieu of electives

ANTH 499 - TIMELINE



- ANTH 499 - Honours Seminar – Spring Term
 - students learn the theoretical, methodological, and empirical competencies necessary for completion of an honours paper
 - professional development is also a fundamental part of this course
- Honours paper & Presentation
 - Students complete either an in-depth review of literature on a topic of their choice or do original research on an anthropological issue
 - Students present their research at [Currents in Anthropology](#) (annual student research conference)

HONOURS RESEARCH PROJECT OPTIONS

1. A library-based analysis of a topic using secondary sources
 2. Research involving the collection and analysis of primary data available in the public domain
 3. Research involving the collections or research process of a faculty member at UVIC
 4. Collecting firsthand data in conducting fieldwork (interviews, sessions of observation, etc.) with a small sample of participants (requires approval of Human Research Ethics Board)
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FINDING A SUPERVISOR

- You may consider approaching a potential supervisor in your 3rd year
 - Though most students find a supervisor at the beginning of the honours program
 - Having a clear project outlined and confirmed is not required when you apply
- Find faculty with similar research interest and reach out
- Supervisor's agreement to take you on does not guarantee your acceptance into the program

www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/faculty-staff/index.php

Faculty & staff

- Office
- Faculty
- Staff
- Senior Lab Instruction
- Post doctoral fellow
- Emeriti & adjunct professors
- Seasonal instructors
- Grad students
- Anthropologists in other departments

Faculty



Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier
Professor, SOSOC - Acting Associate Dean Research & Graduate Studies
Anthropology
[Accepting graduate students](#)
Office: COR B330
aboudre@uvic.ca
250-721-7052
Areas of expertise: Visual anthropology, sound studies, creative practices, digital media, infrastructure, Cuba, Canada



Dr. Rachel Brown
Assistant Teaching Professor
Anthropology & Faculty of Humanities
[Accepting graduate students](#)
Office: SED B102e
rbrown@uvic.ca
Areas of expertise: Cultural anthropology, religion, food studies, migration, ethnography, embodiment, gender



Dr. Tatiana Degai
Assistant Professor
Anthropology
[Accepting graduate students](#)
Office: COR B242
tatianadega@uvic.ca
250-721-6382
Areas of expertise: Indigenous research methodologies, ethics, and community-engaged research, ethnographies of the North-Pacific Arctic, language revitalization



Dr. Dzifa Dordunoo
Status: On leave
Associate Professor
Anthropology
[Accepting graduate students](#)
Office: COR B208
dzifa@uvic.ca
250-721-6384
Areas of expertise: Mental hypersensitivity, evidence synthesis, heart failure, acute cell disease and critical care nursing, racism, nursing workforce



Dr. Mélissa Gauthier
Associate Teaching Professor, Undergraduate & Honours Advisor
Anthropology
Office: COR B240
melg@uvic.ca
250-721-6384
Areas of expertise: Economic anthropology, border studies, informal & illicit economies, cross-border trade, Mexico-US borderlands, Mexico, Yucatan



Dr. Erin Halstad McGuire
Teaching Professor
Anthropology
Office: COR B342
ehalstad@uvic.ca
Areas of expertise: Archaeology, material culture, funerary rituals, Medieval North Atlantic, cemetery archaeology, teaching and learning in undergraduate education

MEETING WITH YOUR SUPERVISOR

The faculty supervisor will guide you and evaluate your work one-on-one over the spring term.

When meeting a potential supervisor:

- Visit faculty member's webpage to learn about their research
- Be informed and enthusiastic; prepare a few questions
- If you already have research ideas, feel free to discuss them
- Please note that some faculty members may not be available if they are on a research leave or already supervising another student



MISCELLANEOUS BITS



- Ethics
 - Under the guidance of your supervisor you will apply for ethics (if applicable)
 - Wise to do early on
- JCURA - Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award
 - Supports students' research project under the mentorship of a faculty supervisor
 - Perfect opportunity to do together with honours – get paid for your research
 - More [here](#)
- Course load during ANTH 499
 - Depends on each student – but anywhere between 3-5 courses

HOW TO APPLY

- Deadline - January 15 (start – January of the next year)
- Apply after you have declared an anthropology major
- GPA of at least 6.0 in upper-level Anthropology courses & maintain a cumulative GPA of 5.5 to continue in the program in the 4th year.
- Application form online:

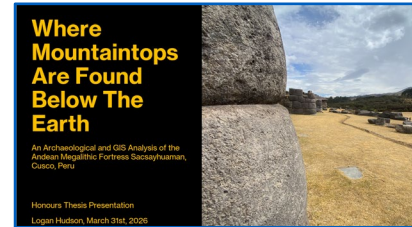
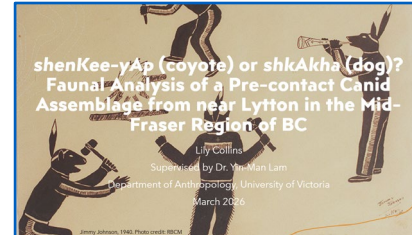
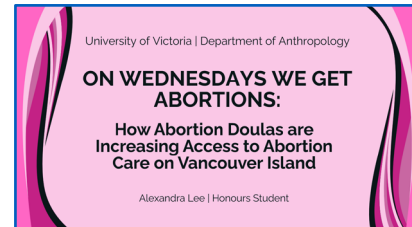
www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/anthropology/programs/honours



LAST YEAR'S RESEARCH

Past ANTH Honours Papers

- Where mountaintops are found below the Earth: An archaeological and GIS analysis of the Andean megalithic fortress Sacsayhuaman, Cusco, Peru: *Hudson, Logan*
- The influence of estrogen exposure on the relationship between mechanical loading and trabecular bone mineral density in young female athletes: *Reed, Finola*
- The archaeology of UVic campus lands: Development & cultural heritage management: *Kobrč, Jonáš*
- shenKee-yAp (coyote) or shkAkha (dog)? Faunal analysis of a pre-contact canid assemblage from near Lytton in the Mid-Fraser region of BC: *Collins, Lily*
- On Wednesdays we get abortions: How the Abortion Support Collective is increasing and improving access to abortion care on Vancouver Island: *Lee, Alexandra*
- More stages for better ages: An investigation into the applicability of a seven-stage epiphyseal scoring system in age estimation methods: *Ashdown, Kaitlyn*
- "It's just what we do in Washabuck": Community music fostering cultural identity in rural communities of Cape Breton: *Davison, Catherine*
- Demystifying death: The necessarily expansive role of the end-of-life doula: *Dow, Bethany*
- Co-productions of home and community within the YWCA BC's long-term social housing program: *Roy, Aberdeen*



DECISIONS

We do our best to notify students by the end of January.



FAQ



When should I apply?

- By January 15th to start in the honours program **the next January**
- When you are starting your 3rd year and take honours in your 4th year
 - ✓ I.e. if you are in your 3rd year now, apply by January 15th 2025 to take honours in January 2026

How is admission determined?

- Admissions decisions are based on a variety of factors:
 - ✓ Applicant's scholarly promise as evidenced by transcripts/GPA/grades
 - ✓ Availability of faculty to supervise the applicant's research
 - ✓ Total number of applicants
- How many students usually apply and how many are accepted?
 - We receive between 10-15 applications
 - We accept between 5-10 applicants per year



FAQ cont.

Can I have a supervisor from another department?

- If you want to work with a supervisor from another department you should be applying for the honours program in that department. Otherwise (if they don't have an honours program) you would need to choose your main supervisor from ANTH but are welcome to bring in another faculty from another department

What is the usual course load while doing honours?

- If you are able to, stay on the low side of how many courses you take while in the honours seminar (ANTH 499)

Are transfer credits counted in the GPA?

- We generally look at the GPA listed on your transcript, but if you want your previous courses to be considered please submit your previous transcript



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US



QUESTIONS?

EMAIL JINDRA@UVIC.CA OR ANTHHONOURS@UVIC.CA