VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

ANTHROPOLOGY

(Honours & General)

Under Graduate Syllabus

(3 Tier Examination Pattern)

w.e.f. 2014-2015

REVISED

Vidyasagar University

Midnapore 721 102

West Bengal

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Honours Course in Anthropology
(Three-Year)

Total Marks: 800

Year wise Distribution of Courses with Marks

Part (Year)	Course Code	Type	Marks
Part I (1st Year)	ANTH/101	Theoretical	100
	ANTH/102		100
Part II (2nd Year)	ANTH/103	Theoretical	100
	ANTH/104		100
	ANTH/105	Practical	100
Part III (3rd Year)	ANTH/106	Theoretical	100
	ANTH/107		100
	ANTH/108	Practical (Fieldwork)	100

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Curriculum structure of the B.Sc. (Hons) in Anthropology

Course Code	Course Name	Marks			Exam Time
		Exam.	IA*	Total	
ANTH/101	Foundations of Anthropology	90	10	100	4 hours
ANTH/102	Biological Anthropology	90	10	100	4 hours
ANTH/103	Prehistoric Archaeology	90	10	100	4 hours
ANTH/104	Sociocultural Anthropology	90	10	100	4 hours
ANTH/105	Biological Anthropology and Prehistory	100		100	4 hours
ANTH/106	Indian Anthropology	90	10	100	4 hours
ANTH/107	Anthropology and Development	90	10	100	4 hours
ANTH/108	Ethnographic Fieldwork	100	--	100	4 hours

*IA=Internal Assessment

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course Contents
Honours Course in Anthropology

Part I

Course code: ANTH/101
Course name: Foundations of Anthropology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

1.1 Anthropology: definition, objectives, scope and branches.

1.2 Uniqueness of Anthropology: holism, comparative method and fieldwork. Concepts of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism.

1.3 Relation of Anthropology with different biological and social sciences.

1.4 Sub-branches of Biological Anthropology, Sociocultural Anthropology and Prehistory: objectives and scope.

1.5 History of Anthropology and its different phases of development. History of development of Biological and Sociocultural Anthropology with special reference to India.

1.6 Origin of man. Man's place in the animal kingdom.

1.7 Biological basis of inheritance in man.

1.8 Fieldwork and its importance in Anthropology. Fieldwork ethics.

1.9 Application of Statistics in Anthropology: basic ideas about frequency distribution, central tendency, standard deviation and variance.

1.10 Utility of Anthropology in the contemporary world.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course code: ANTH/102
Course name: Biological Anthropology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

2.1 Human anatomy: study of different long bones, cranial bones, vertebral column, pelvic and pectoral girdles.

2.2 Primate order: definition, features and classification. Geographical distribution of living primates. Morphological and anatomical comparison between man and the great apes. Primate behavior.

2.3 Concept of species; sympatric, allopatric and allochronic species. Speciation.

2.4 Concept of organic evolution. Evolutionary theories: Lamarckism, Darwinism, genetical and synthetic theory. Stages of human evolution. Hominization process with special reference to molarization, encephalization and erect posture.

2.5 Study of hominid fossil evidences: *Dryopithecus, Ramapithecus,* Australopithecines, *Homo habilis, Homo erectus (Pithecanthropus and Sinanthropus), Homo sapiens neanderthalensis (La-Chapelle-aux-Saints), Homo sapiens sapiens* (Cromagnon and Chancelade fossils).

2.6 Biological basis of human variation: cell division (Mitosis and Meiosis). Normal chromosomal structure and constitution; autosomes and sex chromosomes; Mendelism in man.

2.7 Methods of Human Genetics. Single factor inheritance (autosomal and sex-linked), multifactorial inheritance, multi-allelic and polygenic inheritance. Heredity-environment interaction: importance of twin studies. Basic idea of population genetics.

2.8 Pre-Mendelian and post-Mendelian concepts of race; scientific concept of race. Racial criteria.

2.9 Factors responsible for race formation: natural selection, social selection, sexual selection, mutation, genetic drift, isolation and hybridization.

2.10 Classification of World population by Hooton. Racial classification of India (H.H. Risley, B.S. Guha and S.S. Sarkar).

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Part II

Course code: ANTH/103
Course name: Prehistoric Archaeology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

3.1 Concept of Prehistoric Archaeology. Methods of studying Prehistoric Archaeology with reference to excavation and exploration.

3.2 Studies of environmental, biological and behavioural evidences; conjunctive approach.

3.3 Early man's environment: Quaternary period, glacial and pluvial phases.

3.4 Evidences of Pleistocene environment: sand dunes, loess, moraines and river terraces.

3.5 Concept of dating. Relative dating (stratigraphic dating, river deposition, Flurine dating and pollen analysis) and absolute dating (C14, Potassium-Argon, Dendrochronology, Thermoluminiscence).

3.6 Origin and development of culture. Biocultural interaction.

3.7 Lithic tools: typological and technological development. Tool making techniques.

3.8 Culture of early man: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures of Europe. Prehistoric culture of Africa: Olduvai Gorge and Stellenbosch. Neolithic revolution: concept and characteristic features.

3.9 Culture of early man in India: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic sites and their typotechnological features.

3.10 Megalithic culture in India. Indus Valley Civilization: sites, origin, features, contact with other culture and causes of decline.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course code: ANTH/104
Course name: Sociocultural Anthropology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

4.1 Definition of Sociocultural Anthropology. Theories on development of culture: evolutionism, diffusionism and structural-functionalism.

4.2 History of development of culture concept. Contributions to culture concept: Edward Burnett Tylor, Nirmal Kumar Bose, Alfred L. Kroeber, Bronislaw Malinowski, Leslie White, and Ralph Linton.

4.3 Aspects of culture. Culture trait, culture complex and culture area. Concept and features of society. Relation between culture and society. Patterns of culture: Ruth Benedict's contribution.

4.4 Concept of culture change; factors of culture change: diffusion, acculturation, adaptation and innovation; culture and world view.

4.5 Family, marriage and kinship: definition, functions and types. Preferential and prohibited categories of marriage. Ways of acquiring mates with special reference to Indian tribes. Concepts of descent, lineage, clan, phratry, moiety and social organization.

4.6 Methods of Social Anthropology. Fieldwork and different data collection methods and techniques: observation, interview, genealogy, case-study and questionnaire. Pilot survey and key-informant.

4.7 Personality: definition and basic types. Relationship between culture and personality as proposed by Margaret Mead. Role of culture in personality formation.

4.8 Economic system: concepts and types. Subsistence patterns of Indian tribes: hunting-gathering, pastoralism, shifting hill cultivation, and agriculture.

4.9 Ethnography and its importance in Anthropology. Ethnographic fieldwork. Sampling techniques. Utility of questionnaire, schedule and photography.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

4.10 Ethnographic contributions of some pioneer anthropologists: B. Malinowski, T.C. Das, S.C. Roy, D.N. Majumdar, and M.N. Srinivas.

Course code: ANTH/105
Course name: Biological Anthropology and Prehistory [Practical] **Marks: 90 + 10 (Viva-voce) = 100**

5.1 Concepts of Anthropometry, landmarks and FH-plane.

5.2 Somatometry: (i) Maximum head length; (ii) Maximum head breadth; (iii) Least frontal breadth; (iv) Bizygomatic breadth; (v) Nasal length; (vi) Nasal breadth; (vii) Nasal depth; (viii) Upper facial height; (ix) Total facial height; (x) Bigonial breadth; (xi) Head circumference; (xii) Height vertex; (xiii) Height tragion; (xiv) Height acromion; (xv) Height suprasternale; (xvi) Height radiale; (xvii) Height stylion; (xviii)Height dactylion; (xix) Height illiospinale; (xx) Sitting height; (xxi)Tibial length; (xxii) Biacromial breadth; (xxiii) Biiliac breadth; (xxiv) Hand length; (xxv) Hand breadth; (xxvi) Foot length; (xxvii) Foot breadth.

5.3 Craniometry: (i) Maximum cranial length; (ii) Maximum cranial breadth; (iii) Least frontal breadth; (iv) Bizygomatic breadth; (v) Nasal length; (vi) Nasal breadth; (vii) Upper facial height; (viii) Total facial height; (ix) Bimaxiallry breadth; (x) Bimastoidal breadth; (xi) Biorbital breadth; (xii) Inner-orbital breadth; (xiii) Outer-orbital breadth; (xiv) Orbital length; (xv) Orbital breadth; (xvi) Length of foramen magnum; (xvii) Breadth of foramen magnum; (xviii) Nasion-basion line; (xix) Nasion-inion line; (xx) Frontal arc; (xxi) Sagittal arc; (xxii) Occipital arc; (xxiii) Maximum frontal breadth; (xxiv) Occipital breadth; (xxv) Cranial circumference.

5.4 Indices: (i) Cephalic Index; (ii) Nasal Index; (iii) Jugo-frontal Index; (iv) Upper Facial Index; (v) Total Facial Index.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

5.5 Somatoscopy: observation on (i) Skin colour; (ii) Nose; (iii) Head hair; (iv) Eye; (v) Lip; (vi) Ear.

5.6 Osteology: identification of humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia, fibula, clavicle, scapula, frontal, parietal, occipital, temporal, maxilla and mandible.

5.7 Testing of colourblindness; ABO blood group testing.

5.8 Prehistory: (i) Drawing and description of prehistoric tools - choppers, handaxes, scrapers, blades, microliths, spears, celts, ring stones, harpoon heads, battons and needles; (ii) Identification of prehistoric tools and techniques.

5.9 Visit to an archaeological site or a museum.

5.10 Evaluation of Laboratory note books on (i) Somatometry, Craniometry, Somatoscopy and Osteology and (ii) Prehistory.

5.11 Viva-voce.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Part III

Course code: ANTH/106
Course name: Indian Anthropology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

6.1 Contributions toward development of Anthropology in India: Iravati Karve, Nirmal Kumar Bose, S.C. Dube, H.D. Sankalia, M.N. Srinivas, LP. Vidyarthi and S.C. Sinha.

6.2 Racial and linguistic elements in Indian population.

6.3 Geographical distribution of tribal population in India. Classification of the Indian tribes on the basis their of subsistence activities. Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) and Denotified Tribe: concepts and distribution.

6.4 Relation between tribe and caste in India. The concept of tribe-caste continuum as proposed by Surajit Chandra Sinha. N.K. Bose's concept of Hindu method of tribal absorption.

6.5 Constitutional safeguards and special provisions for Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Communities as specified in the Indian Constitution.

6.6 Problems of the tribal population in India in the context of malnutrition and health, education, poverty, indebtedness, landlessness, unemployment, and social unrest.

6.7 Traditional socializing institutions. Role of youth dormitories *(Dhumkuria and Ghotul)* in tribal life and change.

6.8 Joint Forest Management. Forest Policy in India and its impact on the marginal people.

6.9 Caste system: concept, characteristic features and changes. Comparison between caste and class.

6.10 Social organization of Indian tribes: Santal, Lodha, Chenchu, Toda and Garo.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course code: ANTH/107
Course name: Applied Anthropology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

7.1 Applied Anthropology: concept, scope and history. Applications of Biological Anthropology in Forensic Science, public health, sports, medical genetics and occupational health; applications of Sociocultural Anthropology in decentralized planning, public administration, education and health; applications of Prehistory in preservation of cultural material or relics, and understanding of biocultural interaction.

7.2 Action Anthropology: concept, objectives, methodology and history.

7.3 Demographic studies. Concepts of fertility, mortality and morbidity.

7.4 Biocultural aspects of human nutrition; human growth and development studies. Medical Anthropology and its importance.

7.5 Recommendations of the Elwin and Dhebar Commissions on development of the tribal population in India. Tribal welfare programmes in India.

7.6 Endangered tribes in India: Lodha, Birhor, Kheria, Chenchu and Andaman Islanders, Development Anthropology.

7.7 Application of anthropological knowledge in the context of specific human problems with special reference to India: health and disease, malnutrition, reproductive health, infant and child mortality, poverty and unemployment, displacement and development, and social unrest.

7.8 Problems of national integration; ethnic and sociopolitical movements in India. Feminist movement.

7.9 Concept of Human Rights and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. Indigenous people and their rights.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course code: ANTH/108
Course name: Ethnographic Fieldwork (Practical)
Marks: Evaluation of Report – 70, Viva-voce – 30 = 100

8.1 Fieldwork is to be carried out for at least 10 days in a tribal or rural village/hamlet taking into consideration the following aspects:

(a) Review of earlier literature on the community to be studied;

(b) Setting up of a camp at a different locale;

(c) Establishing rapport with the community;

(d) Mapping;

(e) Household census;

(t) Application of anthropological methods and techniques; and

(g) Collection of data on economic, social and religious aspects.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

General Degree Course in Anthropology
(Three-Years)

Total Marks: 400

Year wise Distribution of Courses with Marks

Part (Year)	Course Code	Type	Marks
Part I (1st Year)	ANTG/101	Theoretical	100
Part II (2nd Year)	ANTG/102	Theoretical	100
	ANTG/103A		50
	ANTG/103B	Practical	50
Part III (3rd Year)	ANTG/104A	Theoretical	50
	ANTG/104B	Practical (Fieldwork)	50

Structure of the curriculum for General Course in Anthropology

Course Code	Course Name	Marks			Exam Time
		Exam.	IA*	Total	
ANTH/101	Foundations of Anthropology	90	10	100	3 hours
ANTH/102	Biological Anthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology	90	10	100	3hours
ANTH/103	Group A: Sociocultural Anthropology	40	10	50	2 hours
	Group B: Biological Anthropology and Prehistory (Practical)	50		50	3 hours
ANTH/104	Group A: Applied Anthropology	40	10	50	2 hours
	Group B: Ethnographic Fieldwork (Practical)	50		50	3 hours

*IA=Internal Assessment

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course Contents
General Course in Anthropology

Part I

Course code: ANTG/101
Course name: Foundations of Anthropology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

1.1 Anthropology: definition, objectives, scope and branches. Anthropology as a multidisciplinary subject.

1.2 Uniqueness of Anthropology: holism, comparative method and fieldwork.

1.3 Relation of Anthropology with different biological and social sciences.

1.4 History of development of Anthropology; major phases of development of Anthropology in India.

1.5 Origin of man. Man's place in the animal kingdom.

1.6 Biological basis of inheritance in man: cell, chromosome, gene, DNA, RNA.

1.7 Fieldwork and its importance in Anthropology. Fieldwork methods: observation, interview, case study, genealogy and sampling.

1.8 Geographical distribution and subsistence activities of the Indian tribes.

1.9 Problems of Indian tribal population: poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, indebtedness, displacement, and social unrest.

1.10 Caste system in India: definition, features and changes.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Course code: ANTG/102
Course name: Biological Anthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology
Marks: 90 + 10 (IA) = 100

2.1 Anatomical study of human skeleton: skull, humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia and fibula.

2.2 Primate study: definition, features and classification. Comparative study between man and the great apes.

2.3 Human origin. Evidences from fossil records: *Ramapithecus, Australopithecus (africanus and robustus), Homo habilis, Homo erectus (Pithecanthropus), Homo neanderthalensis* (classic and progressive), and *Homo sapiens* (Cromagnon man).

2.4 Theories of organic evolution: Lamarckism, Darwinism and synthetic theory.

2.5 Cell divisions: Mitosis and Meiosis.

2.6 Mendelism in man: single factor inheritance and multiple factor inheritance.

2.7 Concept of Prehistory. Methods of studying Prehistory: stratigraphy and dating.

2.8 Early man's environment: Quaternary period.

2.9 Biocultural interactions; typo-technological development.

2.10 Stone age cultures: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic with reference to Europe and India. Indus Valley Civilization: a brief study.

Course code: ANTG/103
Course name: Sociocultural Anthropology and Practical Biological Anthropology
Marks: 50 (Theor.) + 50 (prac.) = 100

Group A: Sociocultural Anthropology (Theoretical) **50 Marks**

3.1 Sociocultural Anthropology: definition, scope and limitations.

3.2 Concepts of society, culture; institution, and social organization.

3.3 Family and marriage: definition, functions and types. Types of kin groups: lineage,clan, phratry and moiety.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

3.4 Major contributions of village studies in India.

3.5 Types of subsistence economy: food gathering, hunting, fishing, pastoralism, shifting hill cultivation, and agriculture with special reference to Indian tribes.

3.6 Social and political organization of the Santal, Munda, Birhor, Lodha, Toda and Garo.

Group B: Biological Anthropology and Prehistory (Practical) **50 Marks**

3.7 Somatometric measurements: (i) Maximum head length; (ii) Maximum head breadth; (iii) Least frontal breadth; (iv) Bizygomatic breadth; (v) Nasal length; (vi) Nasal breadth; (vii) Nasal depth; (viii) Upper facial height; (ix) Total facial height; (x) Bigonial breadth; (xi) Height vertex; (xii) Height tragion; (xiii) Height acromion; (xiv) Height radiale; (xv) Height stylion; (xvi) Height dactylion; (xvii) Hand length; (xviii) Hand breadth; (xix) Foot length; (xx) Foot breadth.

3.8 Indices: (i) Cephalic Index; (ii) Nasal Index; (iii) Jugo-frontal Index; (iv) Total Facial Index.

3.9 Somatoscopy: (i) Skin colour; (ii) Nose; (iii) Head hair; (iv) Eye.

3.10 Osteology: identification of humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia, fibula, clavicle, scapula, frontal, parietal, occipital, temporal, maxilla and mandible.

3.11 Prehistory: Drawing, description and identification of prehistoric tools - handaxes, choppers, cleavers, scrapers, blades, Neolithic celts, ring stones, harpoon heads, battons and bone needles.

3.12 Identification of the ethnographic specimens.

3.13 Evaluation of Laboratory note books on (i) Somatometry, Somatoscopy and Osteology and (ii) Prehistory.

3.14 Viva-voce.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf

Part III

Course code: ANTG/104
Course name: Applied Anthropology and Ethnographic Fieldwork
Marks: 50 (Theor.) + 50 (prac.) = 100

Group A: Applied Anthropology (Theoretical)

4.1 Applied Anthropology: concept and a brief history of development. Action Anthropology.

4.2 Nutritional Anthropology: biocultural aspects of human nutrition.

4.3 Medical Anthropology.

4.4 Tribal welfare programmes in India. Role of Anthropology in community development.

4.5 Role of Anthropology in some current human problems in India: malnutrition, health and disease, illiteracy, unemployment and social unrest.

Group B: Ethnographic Fieldwork (Practical)

4.6 Fieldwork is to be carried out for at least 7 days in tribal/rural area focusing on the following aspects:

(a) Mapping;

(b) Household census;

(c) Application of anthropological methods and techniques;

(d) Collection of data on economy, social organization, political organization, ritual rites, and health care practices (sanitation, drinking water, mother and child care, immunization, and birth Control measures.

Downloaded from Vidyasagar University by 18.97.14.81 on 16 Sep 2026 : 05:10:54; Copyright : Vidyasagar University
http://www.vidyasagar.ac.in/Downloads/ShowPdf.aspx?file=/UG_Syllabus/Anthro.pdf