

COMILLA UNIVERSITY



OBE BASED CURRICULUM

FOR

2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 SESSION

MASTER OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (MSS)

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Overview of the University

The Comilla University (Bengali: কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়) is a public university located at Kotbari, Comilla, Bangladesh. The university was constructed on 244.19 acres of land at Shalban Vihara, Moynamoti. Comilla University is affiliated by the University Grants Commission, Bangladesh.

Golam Mowlah is the founder Vice Chancellor (VC) of Comilla University who served until he was left on 30th July, 2008. Zulfikar Ali, a professor of mathematics, was given the charge as acting Vice Chancellor. The next VC of Comilla University, A.K.M. Zehadul Karim declared his resignation on 7th October, 2009. After that, Amir Hossen Khan, a professor of Physics department of Jahangirnagar University, was appointed as Vice Chancellor on 22th November, 2009. After expiration of the duration of Amir Hossen Khan then Dr. Ali Ashraf, a professor of Economics department and Ex-President of Chittagong University Teachers Association has been appointed as the 5th VC of Comilla University. He joined the university on 3rd December 2011. Professor Dr. Emran Kabir Chowdhury joined as the 6th Vice Chancellor of Comilla University on Wednesday, Jan 31, 2018. Professor Dr. AFM Abdul Moyeen is the present Vice Chancellor of Comilla University from 31st January, 2022.

It started with 7 functional departments. Now there are a total of 19 departments under 6 faculties including Information & Communication Technology, Computer Science & Engineering, Pharmacy, Physics, Chemistry, Statistics, Mathematics, Finance and Banking, Accounting & Information Systems, Marketing, Management Studies, Mass Communication & Journalism, Law, Economics, Public Administration, Archaeology, Anthropology, Bengali, and English.

Department of Anthropology

From the prehistoric era to contemporary cultural diversity, Anthropologists engage with a wide range of issues and phenomena that affect human life. Anthropology studies human experience by integrating social, cultural, biological, archaeological, and linguistic approaches within a single discipline. Here we welcome you to this diversified learning journey on behalf of all the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Anthropology, Comilla University, Cumilla, Bangladesh.

The history of the Department of Anthropology goes back to the decision of the Syndicate of Comilla University (CoU), taken in 2008, to establish the faculty of

Social Science. As a follow-up to that decision, the aims and objectives and the detailed programs of the proposed Institute were finalized, and in 2009, the department was inaugurated. In 2009, it began its academic journey with the admission of students to the B.S.S. (Honors) program. The department started its journey with only 35 students in the academic session 2009-2010. Currently, the department is offering a four-year Bachelor of Social Science (BSS) honors program in Anthropology and a one-and-a-half-year (three-semester, OBE-based) Master of Social Science (MSS) program in Anthropology. Both programs are deliberately designed to maintain a balance between theoretical Anthropology and the practice of Anthropological knowledge across academic and applied sectors. At present, the Department has 15 competent (six in higher study) and experienced academics and 03 non-academic staff with three classrooms, a seminar library, and an office. The total number of students is about 300.

Along with producing efficient graduates, this department provides students not only with a strong background in critical thinking, analysis, and writing, but also with first-hand experience through empirical field research. We encourage students to do cross-disciplinary and sub-disciplinary research. Our embrace of both qualitative and scientific research gives our methods flexibility, depth, and analytical rigor. However, the Department continues the trends of extended social research, critical theoretical approaches to contemporary global problems, and historically informed analysis.

The Department of Anthropology at Comilla University has an affiliated organization, the Anthropology Society. The Anthropology Society aims to extend relations among faculty and students beyond classroom activities and sharing. It advocates that students engage in co-curricular activities supported by its four wings. These are like the Language Club of Anthropology (LCA), the Debating Club of Anthropology (DCA), the Study Circle of Anthropology (SCA), and the Cultural Club of Anthropology (CCA). Based on their affiliations with these four wings, students of this department organize different educational and cultural program which envisions their academic journey with the bliss of diversified essence and colors.

Emphasizing the core subject matters such as cultural, physical, linguistics and archeological perspectives in studying human beings in Anthropology; the department expects to contribute in better understanding of culture, cultural changes, development and urbanization, health issues, environment and ecology, social and behavioral problems, government and authority, policy and planning, education, exclusion and marginalization, contemporary issues and so on. Undoubtedly, the journey with this discipline may help students to be involved professionally in academic, administrative, GO and Non-GO Research and development sectors in Bangladesh as well as all over the world.

Part A

1. Title of the Academic Program: Master of Social Science (MSS)

2. Name of the University: Comilla University

3. Vision of the University:

Comilla University is committed to empowering society, advancing development, promoting human welfare and a sustainable planet.

4. Mission:

1. To educate a wide variety of students through effective teaching-learning to achieve academic excellence.
2. To create an ambiance for creative and innovative academic exercise and high-quality research.
3. To undertake actions regarding collaboration that entail opportunities for long-term interaction with academia and industry for producing competent graduates in the workplace.
4. To develop human potential to its fullest extent so that intellectually capable and socially responsible leaders can emerge in a range of professions.

5. Name of the Program Offering Entity: Department of Anthropology

6. Vision of the Program Offering Entity:

To critically analyze human existence through theoretical and methodological lenses, with a focus on the complexities of human diversity and social change of diverse communities in Bangladesh and beyond.

7. Mission of the Program Offering Entity:

- To provide high-quality education that equips students with comprehensive knowledge of anthropological theories and practices
- To promote innovative ethical research practices that address contemporary social issues across the globe
- To foster partnerships with local communities and respective stakeholders to apply anthropological insights for solving social problems and ensuring the betterment of humanity.
- To develop graduates with a mindset that questions the established power structures, social inequalities, politics of representation, and cultural biases.
- To encourage students to acquire critical thinking, effective communication, writing style, and practical skills

8. Objectives of the Program Offering Entity

The Department of Anthropology at Comilla University focuses on advancing anthropological understanding of human culture, diversity, and societal dynamics. Its objectives are designed to produce graduates who can navigate the complexities of human culture and the diversity of social structures, and enhance comprehension of cultural change and development through research, programs, advocacy, and relevant government, non-government, private, and other roles. The breakdown of the core objectives of the department is,

1. **Academic Excellence:** The primary goal is to provide a rigorous understanding of the four main subfields of anthropology: Sociocultural, Biological/Physical, Archaeological, and Linguistic. Graduates will have a mindset of Critical Inquiry to analyze human behavior and social patterns through a critical lens.
2. **Innovative Research:** Produce graduates with Methodological Mastery through rigorous training in qualitative research methods, ethnography, and ethnographic fieldwork, ensuring they can conduct ethical fieldwork and generate innovative, effective, and impactful research outcomes.
3. **Promoting Cultural Relativism and Diversity:** Teaching students to evaluate cultures based on their own merits rather than through the lens of one's own culture. Highlighting the importance of marginalized groups, indigenous communities, and minority rights within the Bangladeshi context and beyond.
4. **Applied Anthropology in problem solving and Policy Making:** Preparing students to work with governments, NGOs, and international organizations to solve real-world problems and design development projects that are culturally sensitive through ensuring cultural acceptance.

9. **Name of the Degree:** Master of Social Science (MSS)

10. **Description of the Program**

11. **Graduate Attributes (based on need assessment)**

- Critical thinking to analyze human society and culture from diverse theoretical foundations of anthropology
- Empirical research and fieldwork proficiency to understand the lifestyles of different populations and the social and historical context of contemporary world problems
- Applying anthropological knowledge in solving complex social issues
- Effective communication and writing skills in dealing with a diverse audience and stakeholders
- Social responsibility and ethics, along with teamwork in research, advocacy, and community applications

12. Program Educational Objectives (PEOs)

13. Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

After successful completion of the program, the graduates will be able to

PLO 1	Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of anthropological theory, methods, and research practices relevant to the study of distinct cultures
PLO 2	Develop critical thinking skills and an understanding of cultural diversity and social dynamics with a specific focus on social, historical, political, cultural, and economic contexts
PLO 3	Understand a both qualitative and quantitative research methodology equips graduates to critically analyse existing social science methods and their application in uncovering the underlying complexities of various social issues
PLO 4	Engage ethically and respectfully with Bangladeshi communities, demonstrating cultural sensitivity, reflexivity, and a commitment to promoting social justice and equity through applying anthropological practices
PLO 5	Apply anthropological knowledge and skills to diverse professional settings, including academia, government agencies, non-profit organizations, international development agencies, and private sector industries

14. Mapping Mission of the University with PEOs

15. Mapping PLOs with the PEOs

16. Mapping Courses with PLOs

PART B

17.

18.

PART C

19. Description of all courses of the program, including the following information for each course

Course Code:

Course Title:

Credits:

Rationale of the course:

Course content:

**Mapping/Alignment of CLOs with Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) (Optional)
Mapping between PLOs and CLOs of Masters of Social Sciences
(Anthropology) program:**

CLOs	PLO	PLO	PLO	PLO	PLO	PLO

1: Low

2: Significant

3: High

**Mapping course learning outcomes (CLOs) with the Teaching-learning strategy
Assessment strategy**

CLOs	Teaching-learning strategy	Assessment strategy
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Assessment and Evaluation

1. Assessment Strategy (Bloom's Taxonomy and Rubric-based, Quiz, Midterm, Assignment, Project, Report, Class Test, Presentation, Semester Final)

2. Marks distribution and Evaluation Policy (Grading System)

SL.	Evaluation	Marks														
1	Formative assessment	40														
1.1	Mid-term Examination (written exam/quizzes) 10*2=20 Two MT Exams (1 st will be held in week 5, & 2 nd will be held in week 8)	20														
1.2	Assignment one On conceptual contents, (After Third week)	5/10														
1.3	Assingment_2 nd and Presentation, Ninth week -Applying course learnings and outcome, -On a given topic -practical learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and not repeated, within 2500-3000 words • Computer composed, Plagiarism checked • Primary or secondary data Presentation (ppt or video), Q&A	10/5														
1.4	Class Attendance Students MUST provide proper documentation for excused absences from class participation activities. Illness/medical or other personal situation in which the student can provide documentation or has discussed their situation in advance with the course teacher.	5														
2	Summative assessment	60														
	Semester Final Examination (Duration of 3 Hours)	60														
	<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Bloom's Category</th> <th>Marks (60)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Remember</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Understand</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apply</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Analyze</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evaluate</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Create</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Bloom's Category	Marks (60)	Remember	15	Understand	10	Apply	10	Analyze	10	Evaluate	10	Create	5	
Bloom's Category	Marks (60)															
Remember	15															
Understand	10															
Apply	10															
Analyze	10															
Evaluate	10															
Create	5															
Total		100														

Part D

20.

List of Courses and Total Credit Hours

The distribution of courses and credit hours by semester is given below:

Course Work (Taught program)

MSS 1st Semester

Course No	Course Title	Hours/Week Theory + Lab	Credit
0314 ANTH -511	Contemporary Anthropological Theories	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -512	Advanced Methodological Issues in Anthropology	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -513	Anthropology of Public Health Issues	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -514	Anthropology of Education	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -515	Anthropology, Climate Change, and Livelihoods	4+0	4
Total		20+0	20

Note: **Students will be enrolled for 5 courses (20 credits)**

MSS 2nd Semester

Course No	Course Title	Hours/Week Theory + Lab	Credit
0314 ANTH -521	Migration and Diaspora	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -523	Anthropology of Media	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -524	Body and Society	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -525	Anthropology of Public Policy	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -526	Project	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -520	Viva Voce	2+0	2
Total		22+0	22

Note: **Students will be enrolled for 4 courses (16 credits), a project (4 credits), and Viva Voce (02 Credits).** An Additional 03 (Three) Months may be required for completing the Project/ Internship.

Total Semester and Credit Hours

Semester	Total Credit Hours	Credit
1 st Semester	20+0	20
2 nd Semester	22+0	22
Total	42+0	42

Course Work (Thesis Group/Mixed Mode)

MSS 1st Semester

Course No	Course Title	Hours/Week Theory + Lab	Credit
0314 ANTH-511	Contemporary Anthropological Theories	4+0	4
0314 ANTH- 512	Advanced Methodological Issues in Anthropology	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -513	Anthropology of Public Health Issues	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -514	Anthropology of Education	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -515	Anthropology, Climate Change, and Livelihoods	4+0	4
Total		20+0	20

Note: Students will be enrolled for 5 courses (20 credits)

MSS 2nd Semester

Course No	Course Title	Hours/Week Theory + Lab	Credit
0314 ANTH -521	Migration and Diaspora	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -523	Anthropology of Media	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -524	Body and Society	4+0	4
0314 ANTH -525	Anthropology of Public Policy	4+0	4
0314 ANTH-520	Viva Voce	2+0	2
Total		18+0	18

Note: Students will be enrolled for 4 courses (16 credits), and Viva Voce 02 Credits

Total- 16+2=18

MSS 3rd Semester





Course No	Course Title	Hours/Week Theory + Lab	Credit
0314ANTH-530	Dissertation (Thesis Writing and Final Defense)	12	12
Total			12



Note: Students will be enrolled for a Dissertation (12 credits)




Total Semester and Credit Hours





Semester	Total Credit Hours	Credit
1 st Semester	20+0	20
2 nd Semester	18+0	18
3 rd Semester	12	12
Total	50+0	50

Profile of Faculty Members

Name of the faculty member	Designation	Contact information (Cell, e-mail)	Areas of interest	Profile picture
Shamema Nasrin	Head of the department , Associate Professor	+8801816941733 shamema.nasrin@cou.ac.bd shamema.nasrin.cou@gmail.com	Medical Anthropology, Research methodology, Environmental Anthropology, Gender Issues, Critical theories in Anthropology.	
Mohammad Ainul Haque	Associate Professor	+8801711700607 ainul.cou@gmail.com	Medical Anthropology, Public Health, Ecology and Environment, Development Issues	
N. M. Rabiul Awal Chowdhury	Associate Professor	+8801716831080 robi285@hotmail.com rachowdhury@cou.ac.bd	Medical Anthropology, Public Health, Research Methodology, Development issues: Policy, Planning, Implication and Evaluation Assessment.	
Md. Abdur Rahman	Associate Professor	+8801727422275 arahman_ANTH-ro@yahoo.com	Medical Anthropology, Indigenous Knowledge, Anthropology of Development, Gender Issues.	

<p>Rabeya Khatun</p>	<p>Assistant Professor</p>	<p>+8801711461605 rabeyarabu83@gmail.com</p>	<p>Gender Issues, Medical Anthropology, Economic Anthropology, Urban Anthropology.</p>	
<p>Md. Azmain Muhtasim Mir</p>	<p>Associate Professor</p>	<p>+8801617562106 turiyaturzo@yahoo.com</p>	<p>The representation and marginalization of ethnic and religious minorities; issues in cultural heritage, tourism development and management; the impact of digital technology and commodification on young people and children; construction of personhood through well-being and social aspirations, exclusion and vulnerabilities through medicalization, development disaster and social surveillance.</p>	

Md. Asaduzzaman	Associate Professor	+8801710018291 azim.asad07@gmail.com	Medical Anthropology, Media Anthropology, Anthropology of Religion, Migration, Ethnography.	
Hasena Begum	Assistant Professor	+8801717279257 hasina83sust@gmail.com	Theories and Methodology of Anthropology, Environmental Anthropology, Climate Change, Gender Issues, Development Anthropology and Applied Anthropology.	
Israt Jahan Lipa	Assistant Professor	isratjahan.lipa99@gmail.com	Narrative studies, material culture, death, grief and bereavement, archival research, and emerging methodological trends in contemporary social research.	

Maria Tahsin	Assistant Professor	<p>01772799108</p> <p>mtahsin.du3247@gmail.com</p>	Gender Inequality and Justice, Climate Adaptation Strategies and Displacement, Adolescents' Mental Health Issues, and Ethnicity and Identity Politics.	
Tanzina Nazia	Assistant Professor	<p>tanzina_nazia@yahoo.com</p>	Blue economy, small-scale ecology; policy and governance; human-environment relations; gender issues and identity politics in Islam	
Hiramony Akter	Assistant Professor	<p>hiramonyakter0@gmail.com</p>	Medical anthropology, Gender issues and perspectives.	
Salma Akter Urme	Lecturer	<p>01303069194</p> <p>salmaakterurme@gmail.com</p>	Public Health, Mental Health Issues, Suicide, Biological Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology, Anthropological Theories, Body and Society, Biomedical Anthropology; Research Methodology, Persons with Disabilities	

			(PWDs), Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR), Masculinity, Digital Body, Contemporary Issues, Post-Development.	
Tohomina Khatun	Lecturer	01751048576 tkmina1741@gmail.com	Gender and Violence, Criminology, Medical Anthropology, Environmental Issues, Education, Ethnicity and Identity Crisis.	
Amith Dutta	Lecturer	01756391663 duttapalash05@gmail.com	Environmental Anthropology, Symbolism and Culture Studies, Gender Studies and Medical Anthropology	