Human Sciences

Courses available are given below. For further information on this course of study please go to [www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/](http://www.ihs.ox.ac.uk/). If you have a particular interest in an area of Human Sciences which you do not see here, please contact vsp@mansfield.ox.ac.uk, and we will ask our Human Sciences fellow for advice. Before confirming your choice of topics we will look at your past qualifications and statement of interests to make sure we are providing the most suitable courses for you.

**Core Options**
The Biology of Organisms including humans: an introduction to the evidence for mammalian, primate and human evolution.
Genetics and Evolution
Society, Culture and Environment
Sociology and Demography
Quantitative Methods for the Human Sciences
Behaviour and its Evolution: Animal and Human
Human Genetics and Evolution
Human Ecology
Demography and Population
Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation
Sociological Theory

**Advanced options**
Anthropology of a Selected Region (e.g. Europe, China, Lowland South America, Japan, South Asia, Tibet, West Africa)
Anthropology of Medicine
Cognition and Culture
Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology
Gender: Theories and Realities: Cross Cultural Perspectives
Health and Disease
Language
Physical and Forensic Anthropology: the Analysis of Human Skeletal Remains
Quantitative Methods
Sociology of Post-Industrial Societies
South and Southern Africa

**Core Options**
The Biology of Organisms including humans: an introduction to the evidence for mammalian, primate and human evolution.

Principles of mammalian physiology: the cell, body fluids, the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, reproduction, hunger and thirst, movement, the senses, and the integrative organization of the central nervous system. Principles of ecology: ecosystems, plant and animal communities and numbers, biotic interaction, the impact of man on the environment.

**Genetics and Evolution**
Principles of genetics and evolution illustrated by examples from human and other organisms. Mechanisms of evolutionary change: selection and adaptation, evolution of sex, altruism, kin
selection and co-operation. Alternative models of evolution. The role of culture in human evolution. The genetic material - its nature, mode of action, and manipulation: the chromosomal basis of heredity; molecular genetics; mapping the human genome; sex determination; mutation at the level of the gene and the chromosome. Mendelian inheritance; genetic variation in populations and its maintenance; quantitative variation and its genetic basis.

Society, Culture and Environment
Social and cultural anthropology: the comparative study of the world's civilizations and peoples, including cross-cultural, power-based and gender perspectives upon social practice and theories of human life. Specific topics will include production and consumption; transactions and modes of exchange; elementary aspects of kinship and marriage; belief systems and social control; political and social organization; classification; technology and social change; material culture and ethnographic resources; the impact of colonialism; space, place and culture; environment and cultural landscapes in transition; land and property rights. Candidates will be expected to be familiar with appropriate ethnographic monographs. Human Geography: Physical and human factors affecting the growth and distribution of world population; international migration and its consequences for ethnic diversity; historical and contemporary pattern of urbanisation; urban spatial segregation on social, cultural and ethnic criteria; the behavioural consequences of urban social segregation.

Sociology and Demography
Sociology: Current and classic discussions of explanatory strategies and social mechanisms, models of individual action and the consequences of aggregation. Empirical research involving these approaches in areas of substantive sociological interest such as social class, ethnicity, religion, the family, politics. Demography: elementary aspects of population analysis. Comparative study of fertility, mortality and family systems in selected human societies. The long term development of human population and its relation to habitat and resources. The demographic transition.

Quantitative Methods for the Human Sciences
**Behaviour and its Evolution: Animal and Human**
Introduction to the study of behaviour including the evolution of behavioural interactions within groups. Behavioural strategies that have evolved in humans and other animals. The use of models to understand complex behaviour. Advanced ethology and cognition, including learning. Perception and decision-making. Primate behaviour and evolutionary ecology, including the development of primate social systems and the evolution of cognition.

**Human Genetics and Evolution**

**Human Ecology**
Human ecology of disease, emphasizing diseases that significantly contribute to the global burden of mortality and cultural change. Diet and nutritional anthropology of human societies. Socio-cultural systems in their environmental context, including philosophical and religious values, differences in ecological perception, and the development of viable conservation strategies, including the impact of humans on other species, the biosphere and climate. Ecology of human reproduction, including cultural differences in reproduction strategies.

**Demography and Population**
Past, present, and future growth and distribution of human populations; geography of population distribution, including international and rural-urban migration; biological, psychological, and social factors affecting fertility and mortality; family planning and contraceptive technology; the age and sex structures of populations; the stable population and other quantitative population models; population theories; historical demography and demographic transition; circumstances and consequences of population change in developed and developed countries; population policies.

**Anthropological Analysis and Interpretation**
The comparative study of social and cultural forms in the global context: to include economics and exchange, domestic structures and their reproduction, personal and collective identity, language and religion, states and conflict, understanding of biology and environment, historical perspectives on the social world and upon practice in anthropology.

**Sociological Theory**
Theoretical perspectives including rational choice; evolutionary psychology; interpersonal interaction; social integration and networks; functionalism. Substantive problems including stratification; gender; race and ethnicity; collective action; norms; ideology. Candidates will be expected to use theories to explain substantive problems.
Additional options

- Anthropology of a Selected Region (eg Europe, China, Lowland South America, Japan, South Asia, Tibet, West Africa)
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- Cognition and Culture
- Cognitive and Evolutionary Anthropology
- Gender: Theories and Realities: Cross Cultural Perspectives
- Health and Disease
- Language
- Physical and Forensic Anthropology: the Analysis of Human Skeletal Remains
- Quantitative Methods
- Sociology of Post-Industrial Societies
- South and Southern Africa