GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Graduate Council NEW Certificate, Concentration, Track or Degree Program
Coordination/Approval Form

(Please complete this form and attach any related materials. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. If no coordination with other units is requires, simply indicate “None” on the form.

Title of Program/Certificate, etc: Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies With a Concentration in Anthropology

Level (Masters/Ph.D./D.): Masters

Please Indicate: ______ Program ______ Certificate ______ X Concentration ______ Track

Description of certificate, concentration or degree program:
Please attach a description of the new certificate or concentration. Attach Course Inventory Forms for each new or modified course included in the program. For new degree programs, please attach the SCHEV Program Proposal submission. See Attached

Please list the contact person for this new certificate, concentration, track or program for incoming students: Peter W. Black Fall 2003; Linda Seligmann, Spring 2004

Approval from other units:

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new program. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution</td>
<td>Sara Cobb, Director See attached</td>
<td>4/17/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sciences and Policy</td>
<td>R. Christian Jones, Chair See attached</td>
<td>3/23/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nursing and Health Sciences</td>
<td>Jeanne Sorrell, Associate Dean See Attached</td>
<td>9/29/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Public and International Affairs</td>
<td>Robert Dudley, Chair See attached</td>
<td>2/25/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of English</td>
<td>Deborah Kaplan, Chair See attached</td>
<td>2/26/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate School of Education</td>
<td>Jeff Gorrell, Dean See attached</td>
<td>2/28/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Public Policy</td>
<td>Kingsley Haines, Dean See attached</td>
<td>3/3/03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submitted by: ____________________________ Email: ______________
Graduate Council approval: __________________________ Date: ____________
Graduate Council representative: __________________________ Date: ____________
Provost Office representative: __________________________ Date: ____________
Summary

Masters in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS)

Concentration in Anthropology

The MAIS Concentration in Anthropology at George Mason University is oriented toward training students to use, and reflect on, anthropological methods and knowledge in the context of complex societies in which globalization is an ongoing process. The Anthropology Program faculty covers a broad spectrum of world regions—China, Central and South America, the United States, Vietnam, Oceania, and Southeast Asia—and theoretical specializations, including psychological anthropology, socialization, violence and conflict resolution, symbolic anthropology, humanitarian assistance, refugee studies, immigration, cultural ecology, cultural repatriation, museum studies, political economy, inequality and agrarian reform, informal economies, historical archaeology, the anthropology of American culture, and physical anthropology. The faculty also has expertise in the use of diverse anthropological methods—ethnographic field research methods, statistics, laboratory techniques in archaeology and physical anthropology, and interactive web and informational technology. The proposed curriculum draws on resident anthropologists in other units at George Mason who cover additional areas of specialization. The MAIS Concentration in Anthropology is intended to prepare students for employment in which anthropological training is useful or for further advanced graduate study at the doctoral level. It will contribute to George Mason University needs and goals by serving a larger graduate student population in key areas and offering training in areas of interest to students pursuing advanced degrees in other George Mason programs.

An MAIS Concentration in Anthropology will draw on the traditional strengths of anthropologists: the study of culture, using participant-observation fieldwork methods, and interdisciplinary, comparative, and holistic knowledge and research methods. The proposed program will incorporate faculty research and teaching interests on a range of contemporary topical issues: nationalism, nation-states, and transnationalism; social movements, ethnicity and identity, conflict, and violence; migration, displacement, and refugees; political economy and globalization; and ecology and conservation.

The salient features of our epoch—global communications, a world market, mass migrations, and intra-as well as international conflict—underscore the importance of understanding cultures in all their complexity and variety. Anthropology is the study of human similarities and differences and their impact on a wide range of social phenomena. Anthropologists continue to refine methods uniquely suited to understanding social phenomena at different scales within a historical context. They therefore bring important perspectives to bear on contemporary problems and issues and frequently have the capacity to offer refreshing approaches to resolving problems and conflicts. Especially distinctive is the emphasis among anthropologists on what unites diverse peoples as well as on what distinguishes one culture from another.

While many disciplines study culture in one or another of its dimensions, anthropologists are prepared to take almost any real-world situation and make sense of it in the light of how values, ideas, and symbols interact with the kinds of actions people take, the interests they have at stake, the decisions they make, and the ways that social institutions and organizations are structured, operate, and endure over time. Anthropologists, through training, acquire the ability to provide depth and insight into social concerns, and to disentangle and explain conflicts in the light of cultural and historical processes. Because of these skills, they may find novel approaches to social problems or challenges and avoid pitfalls that policy-makers and organizational managers might otherwise encounter. Their training allows them to operate in small-scale as well as large-scale settings, in national and international contexts, and with individuals as well as organizations.

Because of anthropology’s century-old tradition of holism and its connections to other social sciences (e.g., government), humanities (e.g., history), and natural science (e.g., biology), students of anthropology necessarily rely on interdisciplinarity in studying culture. A holistic approach implies attention to the broadest possible context of cultural study; that is, it draws non-reductive connections between apparently disparate institutions and actions, between the "micro," local subject of investigation and the "macro," systemic context. The resulting ethnographic method is at once flexible, rigorous, and productive. Such an approach is the
essence of modern scholarship, and anthropology's contribution to new intellectual syntheses draws on both its holistic traditions and its current engagements with that tradition’s strengths and limitations.

Feasibility and Resources

A critical mass now exists in Anthropology for an excellent graduate program of considerable depth and breadth. Such a program can be implemented without compromising the quality of the undergraduate program. The curriculum outlined in this proposal represents a one-year annual rotation of core courses, with a substantial variety of non-core electives available in a three-year rotation period, assuming inputs of one course per faculty member per year. In some cases, faculty may be able to teach two courses per year.

Some of the resources will be produced by redesigning and renumbering courses already taught by the Anthropology faculty in other, interdisciplinary, programs. Some resources will be produced by offering 500-level courses for both graduate and undergraduate students. New courses in Anthropology will, of course, serve already-existing programs.

Resources will also be maximized by the availability of additional graduate courses offered in Sociology, Nursing and Health Science, Education, the School of Public Policy, Government, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Environmental Science and Policy, Cultural Studies, and English, whose faculty will contribute to their staffing.

The current number of faculty in the Program will ensure a resource base for maintaining high standards in the undergraduate program while a Masters program of the highest quality is developed. Should resources in the future permit, core course options will be expanded to include an emphasis on biological anthropology and archaeology.

A modest amount of funds will be needed for purposes of publicizing the new program, using posters and brochures, although much of the publicity can be accomplished via posting on web sites and through email.

Degree Requirements

- All students will be required to complete 36 semester hours, including 12 hours in the core sequence.
- Students will be required to complete at least 18 hours of coursework beyond the core.
- Students may choose between a thesis (6 additional hours) or non-thesis option (3-6 additional hours). In either case, students will plan their program of study in consultation with a faculty advisor. Students may opt to do both an internship and a thesis.
**Emphases**

The basic program is training in general anthropology. Students pursuing advanced degree training in sociocultural anthropology must complete at least 9 of their 18 elective credit hours in Anthropology. Students pursuing an emphasis on ecology and conservation must take at least 9 elective credits in EVPP (see courses listed under electives). Students specializing in issues of violence and conflict resolution must take at least 9 of their elective credits distributed in at least two of the three following units: Government, the School of Public Policy, and ICAR. Students emphasizing health and anthropology should take at least 9 credits distributed in Nursing and Health Sciences, and Sociology. Students interested in pursuing a specialization in anthropology and education should take at least 3 credits in the Graduate School of Education and must take 893 (Seminar in Educational Anthropology).

**Courses**

The following is a list of regular course offerings. The program intends to offer a complete cycle of these courses over a three year period. By a judicious allocation of existing faculty resources it will be possible to sustain both this rotation and the high quality of the undergraduate program. It is anticipated that each full-time socio-cultural anthropologist will offer at least one graduate course per year. Additional graduate-level courses may be offered occasionally and will be listed in the catalog (2004-05).

**Core** (12 credits):

These courses, to be completed in the first year of the MAIS Anthropology Concentration, will be given every year, and are designed to establish a solid foundation for subsequent work at the Masters or PhD level.

**Students must take the following:**

535: Anthropology and the Human Condition: I (3 credits)
536: Anthropology and the Human Condition: II (3 credits)

*(This seminar covers major theories, debates, and methods in sociocultural anthropology. Parts I and II must be taken in sequence.)*

635: Regional Ethnography *(3 credits)*

*(This course offers students an in-depth understanding of particular regional cultures. Course content will not be confined to cultures limited to a particular territory, but also explore "cultures" defined by diaspora, migration, and other global forces and processes.)*

750: Ethnographic Genres *(3 credits)*
In addition to taking at least 18 credit hours of electives, students must select one of the following options:

**Students not writing a thesis must take the following:**

MAIS 798: Research Project in Anthropology (3-6 credits)
*(Students who take 3 credits of MAIS 798 are required to take 21 credits of electives.)*

**Students writing a thesis:**

MAIS 799: Thesis (6 additional credits)

**Electives** (18-21 hours): These are worked out with the student's advisor. The Anthropology Program Director of Graduate Studies and/or Coordinator must approve the student's course of study. Must include 6-12 credits from other units. A total of 6 credits of Independent Reading and Research are permitted. There are a number of additional electives, including those from other Departments or Institutes that are listed below.

[Note: Courses marked by an asterisk have been planned in consultation with the Sociology program. Sociology faculty may in alternate years give the same course under a different designation. Students may receive credit for these courses under either a Sociology or an Anthropology number.]

630 Anthropology and Humanitarian Action
631 Refugees in the Contemporary World
632 International Migration in Comparative Perspective
640 Applied Anthropology*
655 Nationalism, Transnationalism, and States: Local and Global Perspectives*
670 Regional Studies in Archaeology
580 Evolution and Human Ecology
610 Social Organization
614 Ethnopsychology: Self, Subject, and Culture
615 Ritual and Power in Social Life
617 Political Economy
660 Social Science and Critical Theory*
677 Anthropology and History
680 Readings in Archaeology
682 Readings in Biological Anthropology
684 Readings in Cultural Anthropology

685 Language and Culture

690 Internship

687 Culture and Curing

699 Contemporary Issues in Sociocultural Anthropology*

710 Contemporary Issues in Archaeology and Biological Anthropology

721 Culture, Power, and Conflict*

COURSES IN OTHER UNITS WHICH MAY BE USED TOWARD THE ANTHROPOLOGY CONCENTRATION

SOCIOLOGY (SOC)
575 Women and the Law
590 Gender, Race, and the Natural World
614 Sociology of Culture
619 Conflict and Conflict Management: Perspectives from Sociology
634 Qualitative Research Methods
635 Environment and Society
640 Social Theory and Social Policy
650 Issues in the Sociology of Health, Illness and Disability
651 Health Care Systems
692 Complex and Alternative Organizations

ENGLISH (ENGL)
591 Special Topics in Folklore

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND POLICY (EVPP)
Numerous graduate-level courses in EVPP complement the MAIS Concentration in Anthropology emphasis on tropical conservation and ecology, including area-based courses, such as:
543 Tropical Ecosystems
607 Fundamentals of Ecology
622 Management of Wild Living Resources
627 Environmental Policy in Latin America
628 Environment and Development in Africa
648 Population Ecology
741 Environment and Society

GOVERNMENT (GOVT)
540 International Politics
641 Seminar in Global Systems
731 Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics
741 Advanced Seminar in International Politics
743 International Political Economy
745 Issues in International Security

NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES
Masters Curriculum and Career Training

The MAIS Concentration in Anthropology will provide critical and rigorous academic training in anthropology. In developing the curriculum, the anthropology faculty has been attentive to questions of career development, as well as those of academic attainment. We have also taken account of the strengths of our faculty so that we may make optimal use of our available resources.

Courses emphasizing international relief and humanitarian assistance are designed to match program and university resources with local career possibilities. Given the plethora of international relief and humanitarian assistance organizations in the Washington area, there appears to be a need for expertise in this area. Because of this apparent need and our faculty expertise in this area, we have included courses on international relief and humanitarian assistance. Our course offerings draw on the expertise of Program faculty as well as that of resident faculty in other units—Nursing and Health Science, the School of Public Policy, the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Public and International Affairs, Environmental Science and Policy, the English Department, and the Graduate School of Education.

Our courses will also prepare students for employment with Smithsonian operations, non-governmental conservation agencies, state and federal environmental organizations, and state and federal law enforcement agencies. More general courses emphasizing advanced sociocultural anthropology will prepare students for further work in doctoral programs, including Cultural Studies at GMU, as well as for employment in cultural resource management and museum studies, and at community colleges. The Masters curriculum is designed with sufficient flexibility so that students may gain an excellent grounding in sociocultural anthropology for pursuit of a doctorate, if they so choose, or to apply their concentration to strengthen their employment prospects.