

FOR APPROVAL

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Professor William A. Gough, Interim Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean
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PRESENTER: Professor Bryan Stewart, Vice-Dean, Academic Programs
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DATE: March 17, 2025 for March 24, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Minor Modification: New Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law, Department of Anthropology, UTM

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.6 of its terms of reference, the Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for major and minor modifications to existing degree programs.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. UTM Academic Affairs Committee [For Approval] (March 24, 2025)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action taken.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Department of Anthropology proposes a new Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law within the existing Specialist (Arts) and Major (Arts) programs in Anthropology. The structure of the focus pre-exists within these programs as a recommended course pathway or “focus area” for program students. The Department now seeks to formalize this as a Focus within the curriculum.

By definition, a focus is a sub-structure within a Specialist or Major that allows students to select a special cluster of course options that all contribute to study of a particular theme, topic, or sub-discipline within the area of study. Focuses are not mandatory and allows students to enhance their program experience while working toward degree completion. The completed focus will show on a student's transcript and allow students to distinguish this course pathway within their chosen Major or Specialist.

The Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law introduces students to anthropological perspectives on global challenges such as armed conflict, surveillance, border enforcement, the refugee crisis, energy politics, social justice, and climate change among others. This Focus draws on Anthropology's ethnographic approach, offering a comparative lens on law, policy, and politics. Students will complete 3.0 courses, including ANT223H5 (Anthropology of Global Challenges), ANT468H5 (Anthropology of Troubled Times), and 2.0 credits chosen from courses related to the examination of global governance, power, and resistance through an anthropological framework.

The Focus will be of interest to students who plan to pursue graduate/professional training and careers in law, public policy, rights advocacy, journalism, and beyond. The goals of the Focus align with ongoing Department efforts to diversify the curriculum, recent anthropology faculty hires and their research and teaching interests, departmental strategic planning, and the UTM Strategic Framework.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications of the proposed change.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved,

THAT the proposed Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law, in the Department of Anthropology, as detailed in the proposal dated February 21, 2025, be approved, effective September 1, 2025.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Proposal to Create a New Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law, Department of Anthropology, UTM.

University of Toronto

Proposal to Create a Focus
within an Undergraduate Program

Focus Title:	Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law
Parent Program Title and Code: <i>(e.g. French Studies Major, ERMAJ1295)</i>	Anthropology – Specialist (Arts), ERSPE1775 Anthropology- Major (Arts), ERMAJ1775
Academic Unit:	Anthropology
Version Date: <i>(Please change as you edit this proposal)</i>	February 21, 2025

1 Focus Description

The Focus description as it will appear in the Academic Calendar.

The Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law introduces students to anthropological perspectives on global challenges such as armed conflict, surveillance, border enforcement, the refugee crisis, energy politics, social justice, and climate change among others. Anthropology’s ethnographic approach, grounded in long-term engagement with lived experiences, uniquely captures the complexity of these issues across multiple scales. This Focus draws on diverse ethnographic research, offering a comparative lens on law, policy, and politics. Courses in this focus equip students with analytical tools to critically examine global governance, power, and resistance through an anthropological framework. The Focus will be of interest to students who plan to pursue graduate/professional training and careers in law, public policy, rights advocacy, journalism, and beyond.

2 Enrolment Requirements

The Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law is open to all students enrolled in the Anthropology Arts Major or Specialist programs at UTM.

Enrolment in one of these parent programs is required.

3 Completion Requirements

State completion requirements required for the Focus only. Normally, it should be possible for students to complete requirements for the Focus within the scope of the Parent program requirements and within the normal credit range (e.g. 6-8 credits for Majors, 10-14 for Specialists). The selection of courses should formally add more “focus” to a program with a range of choices.

By definition, this Focus adds focus by guiding students to and through a specific set of anthropology courses concerned with politics, policy and law. The Focus requires 3.0 credits, including two mandatory courses. Since this Focus is part of the Anthropology Arts Major, the required credits also contribute to fulfilling Arts Major requirements.

1. ANT223H5: Anthropology of Global Challenges.

The required gateway course will introduce anthropological approaches to the study of pressing global challenges, providing a strong foundation in political and legal anthropology through key anthropological works on the state, bureaucracy, policy, and law. As a gateway to the Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law, it is recommended to be completed within the first two years of study.

2. ANT468H5. Anthropology of Troubled Times

This required capstone seminar will enable students to survey a range of pressing contemporary concerns from an anthropological perspective, while consolidating skills

and knowledge from previous courses in the Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law.

In addition to these two courses, the Focus requires additional 2.0 credits from ANT social science courses listed under the Focus, which currently include:

ANT207H5. Being Human: Classic Thought on Self and Society

ANT209H5. War, Trade and Aid: The Anthropology of Global Intervention

ANT216H5. Racketeers, Smugglers and Pirates: Anthropology of Illegality

ANT310H5. Political Anthropology of Ancient States

ANT350H5. Globalization and the Changing World of Work

ANT351H5. Money, Markets, Gifts: Topics in Economic Anthropology

ANT352H5. Protest, Power and Authority: Topics in Political Anthropology

ANT354H5. Capitalism and its Rebels

ANT357H5. Nature, People and Power: Topics in Environmental Anthropology

ANT358H5. Field Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology

ANT359H5. Sovereignty Matters: Indigenous North America in the 21st Century

ANT365H5. War, Peace, and Revolution in the Middle East: Anthropological Perspectives on Political Conflicts

ANT366H5. Anthropology of Law

ANT368H5. Ecological Worldviews

ANT370H5. Environment, Culture and Film

ANT371H5. The Natural City: Cultural Approaches to Urban Sustainability

ANT450H5. Apocalypse: Anthropologies of Hope, Fear, and Survival

ANT455H5. Toxicity and Environmental Injustice

ANT463H5. Anthropologies of Water: On Meaning, Value, and Futures

ANT467H5. Are Media Turning Humans into Cyborgs?

4 Brief Description of the Proposed Changes

This field is the same as in the Curriculum Management (CM) system. A brief description will assist in the reviewing of changes at governance (AAC).

The Department of Anthropology proposes a new Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law, within its undergraduate programs to enhance the academic experience of Anthropology Arts Major and Specialist students. This Focus identifies a domain of enquiry that has been core to Anthropology since the discipline's beginning and has long been one of our faculties' strengths. Last academic year, our department instituted a Politics, Policy and Law "focus area" for our students on our website. Our aim with this proposal is to formalize this "focus area" as a Focus so that UTM Anthropology Arts Majors and Specialists receive official recognition on their transcripts of having disciplinary expertise in this domain of enquiry.

The Focus will help our students navigate our program, structure their coursework, deepen their engagement with the anthropological study of politics, policy, and law, and connect with peers and faculty who share these interests. Crucially, it will also provide a transcript designation reflecting their thematic focus, which will showcase to potential graduate/professional programs and employers our students' disciplinary strengths and areas of expertise beyond a generic "Anthropology."

The Focus will consist of 3.0 credits. As part of these credits, students must complete ANT223H5: Anthropology of Global Challenges, a gateway course designed for this Focus; and ANT468H5: Anthropology of Troubled Times, a long-running capstone course repurposed for this Focus. Additionally, at least 2.0 credits must be ANT social science courses listed under the Focus. Beyond these specific requirements, students must also fulfill the other course and credit requirements of the Anthropology Arts Major program.

This Focus directly responds to student interest and the need for more concentrated coursework in the anthropological study of politics, policy, and law. It will help students develop critical analytical skills both within our program and as future leaders in their careers.

The Focus aligns with current course offerings in the Arts Major and Specialist programs, ongoing efforts to diversify the curriculum, recent anthropology faculty hires and their research and teaching interests, departmental strategic planning, and the UTM Strategic Framework.

The Department of Anthropology is uniquely positioned to provide critical perspectives on the intersections of politics, policy, and law in the context of global challenges, including armed conflict, inter-state wars, global surveillance regimes, border enforcement, the refugee crisis, energy politics, environmental issues, and climate change—anthropological perspectives not captured elsewhere at UTM. Through ethnography and its focus on real-world practices and lived experiences, anthropology offers key insights into how various actors interpret and engage with policy and law

beyond formal or institutional definitions. It examines how these understandings shape political strategies and how political actions outside institutional frameworks can generate consequences beyond existing policies and legal structures. In this way, the proposed Focus will distinctly equip students with valuable analytical tools for careers in public policy, law, rights advocacy, journalism, and beyond.

5 Rationale

- (a) Explain why the new Focus is being proposed, providing any additional information that may be helpful for review, or of relevance for Curriculum Committees. This may include connections to the unit's priorities, recent reviews or institutional planning, or alignment with other programs. Be sure to note student input and benefit.*
- (b) Indicate which existing Program Learning Outcome(s) in the Parent Program will be supported by the proposed Focus.*

The proposed Focus is open to our Arts Majors and Specialists, guiding them through coursework that develops key skills and knowledge for careers in public policy, law, rights advocacy, and social justice. It will also encourage students to build connections with expert faculty who bring diverse scholarly expertise, linguistic skills, and extensive fieldwork experience across various global challenges and world regions.

Most of the courses in the proposed Focus have been taught and had strong enrollments over the past decade. Student engagement and feedback have demonstrated significant interest in a focus, hence, our current “focus area.” We are now seeking to formalise this as a Focus.

Students have demonstrated sustained enthusiasm and high enrollment in anthropology courses focused on politics, policy, and law. For example, since 2018, 200-level course, ANT217H5: Anthropology of Law, has consistently attracted students, leading the department to increase its enrollment cap from 150 to 175. Under the Focus, this course will be replaced by the new gateway course, ANT223H5: Anthropology of Global Challenges, while Anthropology of Law will be restructured as a third-year seminar. Similar trends are evident elsewhere. Our third-year courses dealing with politics, policy and law topics are well subscribed. ANT468H5: Anthropology of Troubled Times was added several years ago due to student demand and it has had healthy enrollments ever since. This solid student interest will allow the department to further expand and diversify its offerings on law, politics, and policy.

Second, the proposed Focus will introduce students to faculty conducting research on politics, law, human rights, war, disability, social justice, climate change, energy politics, infrastructures, and Indigeneity. Through required and elective coursework, students will have the opportunity to establish research relationships with these faculty members and engage in ROP (Research Opportunity Program) coursework or work-study research in these areas.

Third, the Focus aligns with and further supports the research and teaching agendas of many of our faculty. Specifically, Dr. Firat Bozcali's work on the criminalization of global flows, counterinsurgency, and human rights violations; Dr. Zoe Wool's research on disability, toxicity, and gendered war geographies; Dr. Anne Spice's research on energy politics, infrastructures, grassroots Indigenous activism; Dr. Sarah Hillewaert's research on youth culture and linguistic responses to globalization and urbanization; Dr. Frank Cody's research on populism politics and transformations of political publicity; Dr. Jack Sidnell's research on language reform and revolutionary politics; Dr. Stephen Scharper's research on environment, social movements, and ethics; and Dr. Todd Sanders's research on the government of energy and Indigenous sovereignties all directly contribute to its themes.

Fourth, the proposed Focus aligns with the department's strategic plans for growth and curriculum development, including the planned hire of a faculty member specializing in economic anthropology to replace Dr. Andrea Muehlebach's position.

Fifth, the proposed focus speaks well to the three goals of the UTM Strategic Framework: (1) **Fostering student Success.** The Focus will enable students interested in politics, policy, and law to shape their coursework around their academic and professional interests, connect with peers and faculty who share similar research areas, and obtain a degree designation reflecting their thematic concentration. Students will develop strong analytical and methodological skills, particularly in ethnography, which emphasizes long-term engagement with real-world practices and lived experiences to examine global challenges in their multi-layered and multi-scalar dimensions. (2) **Empowering Research Discovery and Impact.** The Focus will facilitate student collaboration with faculty working on politics, law, human rights, war, disability, social justice, climate change, energy politics, infrastructures, and Indigenous law and sovereignty. These collaborations will provide students with direct experience in grounded ethnographic research, emphasizing the importance of local histories and languages in critically addressing global challenges across multiple geographical and temporal scales. The research opportunities supported by the Focus will contribute to "strengthen[ing] U of T's commitment to inclusive excellence and deliver benefits regionally and globally." (3) **Encouraging Collaboration and Belonging.** The Focus builds on the department's longstanding commitment to this priority, demonstrated through efforts to diversify and decolonize the curriculum. In response to the 2018 UTQAP Assessment, the department has expanded its offerings in political and legal anthropology, environmental anthropology, and Indigenous politics. Recent faculty hires have developed courses on political and social protest, law, human rights, war, disability, social justice, climate change, energy politics, infrastructures, and Indigenous sovereignties. Through the department's EDI committee, a comprehensive survey was conducted in 2023, leading to concrete steps to diversify and decolonize the

curriculum and make classrooms more inclusive. By providing clearer guidance for students interested in the anthropological study of politics, policy, and law, the proposed Focus will complement the department’s commitment to “Enact[ing] anti-racism and anti-oppression work as collective responsibilities and shared actions.”

Sixth, the proposed Focus will complement the Anthropology Arts Major and Specialist Program Learning Outcomes. Upon completing the Focus, students will be able to analyze the political, social, and cultural complexities of today’s world; read, synthesize, and critically assess social science scholarship and reports; apply various forms of social and cultural analysis; write effectively in different genres; and construct persuasive, evidence-based arguments—key learning outcomes shared by the Anthropology Arts Major and Specialist programs.

Finally, formalizing our current “focus area” as a Focus and enabling a notation on students’ transcripts would signal to future graduate/professional programs and employers where these students’ interests and strengths lie. This, too, is a reason HBA Majors and Specialists have been positive about the proposed Focus.

6 Impact

Specify the impact the changes may have on students.

Indicate the impact the changes may have on other units/programs, if any. If courses listed in the program are offered by other units, include a letter of support from the head of that unit, speaking to enrolment controls and priority enrolment, if applicable.

The Focus will enhance the academic learning and research experience of Anthropology Arts Major and Specialist students. It will provide clearer and more structured guidance for those interested in the anthropological study of politics, policy, and law, helping them organize their coursework around these themes. It will also facilitate connections with peer-students and anthropology faculty who share similar research interests and support student-faculty collaboration on research projects through ROP or other research opportunities. Finally, the Focus will provide a degree designation on students’ transcripts, signaling their thematic concentration within the Anthropology Arts Major and Specialist programs to future graduate/professional programs and employers.

We recognize that the proposed Focus may have some thematic overlap with the newly proposed “Politics, Law, and Social Justice” certificate program in the Department of Political Science. However, the two proposals target different constituencies: POL’s Certificate is aimed at POL students and other UTM students; our Focus is only for Anthropology HBA Majors and Specialists. Additionally, our proposed Focus is grounded in the anthropological study of politics, policy, and law, offering distinctive anthropological perspectives on their intersections in global challenges such as armed conflict, inter-state wars, surveillance, border enforcement, the refugee crisis, energy politics, environmental issues, and climate change. Through ethnography’s emphasis

on real-world practices and lived experiences, anthropology reveals how actors interpret and navigate policy and law beyond formal institutions, shaping political strategies and generating consequences beyond existing legal and policy frameworks. Our proposed Focus will thus uniquely equip our students with essential analytical tools for careers in public policy, law, rights advocacy, journalism, and beyond, an expertise that will be indicated on their transcripts. In this sense, we see the Political Science Department's "Politics, Law, and Social Justice" Certificate and our Focus in the Anthropology of Politics, Policy, and Law as complementary. We believe the proposed Focus will foster new opportunities for collaboration between our department, Political Science, and other units in the future.

7 Consultation

Describe any consultation that has been done within the unit, with external units and with students, in particular if other units are affected or if resources are necessary to mount the changes. Indicate dates of sign-off from external units, dates of meetings with students, etc. (If no consultation was required, indicate this in the field with a rationale.)

We have discussed the development of the Focus in periodic sub-field meetings facilitated by sub-field representatives within the department's curriculum committee. A department-wide discussion was also held during the faculty retreat in May 2024. Following these discussions, Dr. Todd Sanders and Dr. Firat Bozcali created the initial framework for the proposed Focus and posted it on the department's website to gauge engagement and collect feedback. In the following months, each sub-field revisited the Focus separately, and the most recent consultation took place during the faculty meeting in the first week of February 2025. Additionally, Interim Chair Dr. Sanders and faculty member Dr. Bozcali held a consultation meeting with Vice-Dean, Academic Programs, Bryan Stewart and Martha Harris, Director of Academic Operations.

8 Resource Implications

State any additional resource requirements for the Focus, and an indication of whether the unit(s) can meet these requirements through existing resources.

The Focus will not require additional resources in terms of faculty, facilities, or teaching support. It consists of courses already taught by current faculty within existing

facilities and does not necessitate new course development or additional teaching assistants. The administration of the Focus, including eligibility checks, course updates, and completion requirement reviews as part of the regular curriculum process, will be managed by Angela Sidoriak, the department’s Academic Advisor & Undergraduate Program Administrator, within her existing workload. The Focus will not impact any agreements with other institutions.

9 Governance Path

Level	Approval By	Approval Date
Development & Consultation with Unit-level Approval	Todd Sanders, Department Chair/Director	February 18, 2025
Consultation with Dean’s Office	Bryan Stewart, Vice-Dean, Academic Programs	February 21, 2025
Divisional Governance Approval	UTM Academic Affairs Committee	

