

Anthropology 3PD3: Debates and Perspectives in Anthropology

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

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Lecture: W, 12:30-1:20; F 12:20-2:20

Office: CNH 531

Office hours: Mondays 9-10 a.m.

Course Description

This course explores themes of importance to the various sub-disciplines of Anthropology. The goal is to show how varying analytical perspectives on these broad themes produce divergent views of past and present human cultures.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

Appreciate how the sub-fields of anthropology engage with a number of important themes.

Develop the skills to critically evaluate ideas put forward in each of the sub-disciplines.

Develop critical reading skills.

Write a significant research paper.

Required Materials and Texts

None. See links on Avenue.

Class Format

Tutorials:

The class will be divided (on the basis of your last name) into Groups 1 and 2. On certain dates marked on the syllabus below, EITHER group 1 or 2 will meet for tutorial discussions. These sessions are mandatory to attend and you must come to class having done the required readings for that tutorial theme. A separate handout will be distributed which discusses this.

Tutorial Leader for Groups 1 and 2: Eloi Berube

Email: berube2@mcmaster.ca

Office location and hours: CNH 502, Thursdays 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Course Evaluation - Overview

Midterm Test: 25%, October 26

Debate Paper: 25%, December 5

Peer editing: 5%, November 14 (group 1) or November 21 (group 2)

In-class discussion/debate: 5%, various due dates

Two (out of three) reading reflections: 7.5% each - 15% total; September 28, October 19 and November 16

Active Participation and attendance: 10%

Final Take home Test: 15%, December 11

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm Test: 25%, October 26 – This is an open book, essay-based test. You will not be given the essay questions in advance, but you will have a choice of 2/3 essay questions to answer. The test length is 1 hour, 50 minutes.

Debate Paper: 25%, December 5 – This is a 2500-2750 word paper that is due by 11 p.m. on December 5 to the Avenue drop box (no hard copies). You will be given a choice of essay questions within the first two weeks of class.

Peer editing: 5%, November 14 (group 1) or November 21 (group 2)
You will be divided into either group 1 or group 2 on the basis of your last name. Please attend your assigned peer editing date (Nov. 14 or 21) and bring two complete hard copies of a draft of your debate paper with you. We will be doing a peer editing exercise in class that is worth 5% of your grade. A grade breakdown will be provided in class prior to the peer editing session.

In-class discussion/debate: Please attend the session you signed up for. You will be asked to hand in a 1200-1500 word summary of your brief presentation. More details will be provided in the first two weeks of class.

Two (out of three) reading reflections: 7.5% each - 15% total; September 28, October 19 and November 16. You will write two 1000-1200 word reading reflection essays that are based upon course readings. Directions and questions provided in class.

Active participation and attendance: Attendance is taken at all classes. Your participation mark consists of: 5% for attendance, and 5% for active participation (asking and answering questions, providing meaningful contributions to class discussions, and showing evidence of having completed course readings).

Final Take Home Test: 15%, December 11; Answer one out of two essay questions; questions provided one week in advance.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

WEEK 1:

September 5: Introduction to the course and course expectations

Please read the course syllabus thoroughly.

Issue #1: Representing “Others”

September 7: Formations of Otherness and Constructions of Reality

Hall, Stuart. 1993. The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power. *In* The Formations of Modernity: Understanding Modern Societies. Bram Gieben and Stuart Hall, eds. Pp. 185-227. Cambridge: Polity Press (Posted on Avenue to Learn)

WEEK 2:

September 12: No class. Please watch the film -- "The Couple in the Cage":

<https://vimeo.com/79363320>

September 14: Re-thinking Histories: Cannibalism?

Reading: Obeyesekere, G. "The Apotheosis of Captain Cook" (on Avenue)

WEEK 3:

September 19: Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #1

September 21: Tourism and Representation

Readings: Catherine Palmer, "Tourism and Colonialism: The Experience of the Bahamas" (on Avenue to Learn)

Little, Kenneth, "On Safari" (on Avenue to Learn)

WEEK 4:

September 26: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #1

September 28: Representing "Others" and Situating Knowledge: The Case of Museums

Readings: Barringer and Flynn, "Colonialism and the Object" (posted on Avenue to Learn)

Gable and Handler, "After Authenticity at an American Heritage Site" (posted on Avenue)

Butler, Shelley, "The Politics of Exhibiting Culture"

****** Reading Reflection #1 is due to Avenue drop box by 11 p.m. this evening**

WEEK 5:

October 3: Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #2

October 5: Sara Baartman:

Readings: Qureshi, "Displaying Sara Baartman, The 'Hottentot Venus'" (posted on Avenue)

<http://thoughtcatalog.com/kovie-biakolo/2014/11/how-to-un-break-the-internet-compare-the-plight-of-sarah-baartman-to-kim-kardashian/>

See also: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35240987>

Week of October 8: No classes. Fall Reading Week.

WEEK 6:

October 17: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #2

October 19: Issue #2: Thinking and Acting Ethically

Thinking and Acting Ethically – Human Remains

Reading: Walker P. L. 2004. Caring for the Dead: Finding a common ground in disputes over Museum Collections of human remains (posted on Avenue)

Bruning, “Complex Legal Legacies” (posted on Avenue)

******* Reading Reflection #2 is due to Avenue drop box by 11 p.m. this evening**

WEEK 7:

October 24: Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #3

October 26: Midterm Test in class

WEEK 8:

October 31: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #3

November 2: Ethics, Anthropology and Military Engagements

Readings: <http://www.aaanet.org/about/Policies/statements/Human-Terrain-System-Statement.cfm>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/07/07/army-shuts-down-controversial-human-terrain-system-criticized-many-anthropologists>

Albro, “Anthropology and the Military” (on Avenue)

WEEK 9:

November 7: Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #4

November 9: Archaeology and Ethics

Reading: Zorzin, “Archaeology and Capitalism” (on Avenue)

Corporate Anthropology

Readings: Singer, Natasha, “Intel’s Sharp-eyed Social Scientist” (link posted on Avenue)

Baer, Drake, “Here’s Why Companies are Desperate to Hire Anthropologists” (link posted on Avenue)

WEEK 10:

November 14: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #4

November 16: The Napoleon Chagnon Controversy

Readings: Please read the Chagnon article first.

Chagnon, Napoleon, “Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamo” (posted on Avenue. This is chapter 1 of Chagnon’s ethnography).

Daly, Lewis, “Narcissus in the Bush” (posted on Avenue)

******* Reading Reflection #3 is due to Avenue drop box by 11 p.m. this evening**

WEEK 11:

November 21: Tutorial Group 1 – MEETING #5 - Peer editing group 1. Please bring two complete drafts of your paper.

November 23: Re(constructing) the Past: What does it mean to “think anthropologically?”

Readings: Marks, Jonathan, “Neanderthal Genomics” (on Avenue to Learn)

Nelson, Sarah, “Diversity of Upper Paleolithic Venus Figurines and Archaeological Mythology” (on Avenue to Learn)

Inventing Archaeological Histories

Reading: El Haj, “Translating Truths” (posted on Avenue)

WEEK 12:

November 28: Tutorial Group 2 – MEETING #5 - Peer editing group 2. Please bring two complete drafts of your paper.

November 30: Who Benefits?

Readings: TallBear, Kim, “Genomic articulations of Indigeneity” (on Avenue) and

Reardon, T, and TallBear, Kim, “Your DNA is our History” (on Avenue)

WEEK 13:

December 5: Final Debate paper due by 11 p.m. to Avenue to Learn

December 11: Final take home test due by 11 p.m. to Avenue to Learn

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be submitted electronically on or before specified due dates in Word format or as PDF’s to the Avenue to Learn drop box. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignment has uploaded. You should receive a verification email which indicates that your work was submitted. Save this email. Log in and out of Avenue to make sure that your work appears in the drop box.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Assignments submitted by e-mail **will not be accepted**. No extensions will be given unless you MSAF work or unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided. Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>). Late assignments without appropriate documentation will be penalized **10% per day (ie. for each 24 hour period or part thereof)** late, including weekend days. No assignments are accepted after 48 hours of the submission deadline (including weekends) and you will receive a 0. Example: If you submit a paper worth 10% two hours past the deadline, then 10% will be taken off.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Please use your MSAF for any missed work that is worth less than 25%. You will then be given a 48 hour extension. For any work worth more than 25%, you'll have to visit your faculty office for an MSAF exception.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted

work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student’s religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Privacy Protection

In accordance with regulations set out by the Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act, the University will not allow return of graded materials by placing them in boxes in departmental offices or classrooms so that students may retrieve their papers themselves; tests and assignments must be returned directly to the student. Similarly, grades for assignments for courses may only be posted using the last 5 digits of the student number as the identifying data. The following possibilities exist for return of graded materials:

1. Direct return of materials to students in class;
2. Return of materials to students during office hours;
3. Students attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with assignments for return by mail;
4. Submit/grade/return papers electronically.

Arrangements for the return of assignments from the options above will be finalized during the first class.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.