

Anthropology 3PD3: Debates and Perspectives in Anthropology

Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

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Office hours: By appointment. Just email me to set up a time.

Class times: Tuesdays 9:30-10:20 and
Fridays 9:30-11:20

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

See links on Avenue re: weekly readings.

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.

Course Evaluation - Overview

Midterm Test: 25%

Final Paper: 30%

Peer editing of final paper drafts: 5%

Three (out of four) reading reflections (mini-essays): 10% each - 30% total.

See the due dates below on the syllabus.

Active Participation and attendance in both lecture and tutorial: 10%

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm Test: 25% – This is an essay-based test, with a choice of two/three essay questions to answer. The test length is 1 hour, 50 minutes.

Peer editing: 5%

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 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.

Three (out of four) reading reflections: 10% each - 30% total; You will write four 1200-1400 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 group work, and showing evidence of having completed course readings).

Final Paper: 30%. 8-10 double-spaced pages, due April 6.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

January 7: Introduction to the course and course expectations

Please read the course syllabus thoroughly. **Prior to our January 10 class, please watch the film -- "The Couple in the Cage": [Vimeo 79363320](#)**

Issue #1: Representing "Others"

January 10: Formations of Otherness and Constructions of Reality

Reading: Mitchell, Timothy, The World as Exhibition. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 31, No. 2 (Apr., 1989), pp. 217-236

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)

January 14: No class.

January 17: Re-thinking Histories

Readings: Obeyesekere, G. "The Apotheosis of Captain Cook" (on Avenue)
Knauff, Bruce, "Monument of Miscast Error" (on Avenue)

January 21: Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #1

January 24: Tourism and Representation

Readings:

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

Bruner, Edward, and Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Elizabeth, "Maasai on the Lawn: Tourist Realism in East Africa" (on Avenue to Learn)

January 28: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #1

January 31: Representing "Others" and Situating Knowledge: The Case of Museums

Readings: Bennett, Tony, "The Exhibitionary Complex" (posted on Avenue)

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**

February 4: Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #2

February 7: Sara Baartman:

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

Lyons, Andrew, The Two Lives of Sara Baartman: Gender, "Race," Politics and the Historiography of Mis/Representation (on Avenue)

Fausto-Sterling, "Gender, Race and Nation" (on Avenue)

February 11: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #2

February 13: Margaret Mead and Derek Freeman – The Production of Essentialism in Ethnography

Readings:

Cote, James E., "The Mead-Freeman Controversy in Review" (on Avenue)

Marshall, Mac, "The Wizard from Oz Meets the Wicked Witch of the East" (on Avenue)

******Reading Reflection #2 is due to Avenue Drop box by 11 p.m. today (Feb. 13)**

February 17-23: Winter Reading Week.

February 25: Tutorial Group 1: MEETING #3

February 27: MIDTERM TEST in class (worth 25%)

March 3: Tutorial Group 2: MEETING #3

Issue #2: Thinking and Acting Ethically

March 5: 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 #3 is due to Avenue drop box by 11 p.m. this evening (March 5)**

March 10: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #3

March 12: Ethics, Anthropology and Military Engagements

Readings: [Aaanet about Policies-Human Terrain System Statement](#)
[Insidehighered news July 07 2015 Army shuts down controversial human terrain system criticized many anthropologists](#)

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

March 17: :Tutorial Group 1 meets today: MEETING #4

March 19: 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)

March 24: Tutorial Group 2 meets today: MEETING #4

March 26: 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 #4 is due to Avenue drop box by 11 p.m. this evening (March 26)**

March 31: Tutorial Group 1 – MEETING #5 - Peer editing group 1. Please bring two complete drafts of your paper.

April 3: Re(constructing) the Past: What does it mean to “think anthropologically?”

Readings: Marks, Jonathan, “Neanderthal Genomics” (on Avenue to Learn)
Reardon, T, and TallBear, Kim, “Your DNA is our History” (on Avenue)
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)

April 6: Final paper due to Avenue today by 11 p.m.

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 [Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](#)). 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 [Academic Integrity](#).

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 [Academic Integrity](#).

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.