

# ANTHROPOLOGY 3PD3: PERSPECTIVES AND DEBATES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall 2022

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**Lecture:** Wed. 11:30-2:20 in PGCLL M12

**Office:** Virtual office/in-person by appt.  
**Office Hours:** Please email me to set up a time for an in-person or virtual appointment via Zoom

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## **Course Description**

This course explores anthropological debates and 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 series of short critical reflection papers.

## **Required Materials and Texts**

Weston, Gavin and Natalie Djohari

*2020 Anthropological Controversies: The 'Crimes' and Misdemeanors that Shaped a Discipline.*

New York: Routledge.

Paperback version ISBN: 978-1-138-61672-1 (pbk)

Electronic version ISBN: 978-0-429-45960-3 (ebk)

**NOTE:** The above book is available for free via the McMaster library (log in with your MAC ID). Alternatively, you can purchase it in the bookstore.

Links to the remainder of reading material are posted on A2L.

## **Class Format**

Lecture/seminars. Lectures will normally take place during the first part of our Thursday class time. The second half of class will be devoted to discussion and debate.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Midterm Take Home Test (25%) – due October 5 by 11 p.m. to A2L
2. Final Take Home assignment (25%) – due Dec. 7 by 11 p.m. to A2L
3. Debate paper (25%) – select one of two papers, each with different due dates (due Nov. 2 or Nov. 23)
4. Participation in class/seminars (10%)
5. Group seminar presentation/discussant assignment (15%) – various due dates

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Midterm (25%), held online on October 5**

The midterm is an essay-based test with a choice of short essays based upon readings/lectures/seminar discussions to choose from. You will not be asked to conduct any external research to answer the questions on this test. More details provided in class

**Final Take Home (25%), due Dec. 7** by 11 p.m. to A2L. Choice of questions to respond to.

### **Debate paper (25%), due Nov. 2 or Nov. 23**

You will be given two essay questions, each with different due dates. You will be asked to select 1/2 essays to complete. Your essay will be approximately 1400-1600 words in length.

**Participation in seminars (10%)** – 5% is allocated for attendance and 5% is for active participation (answering or asking questions, demonstrating familiarity with readings, etc.). One week prior to each session, I will post the questions that we will discuss in seminar on A2L.

**Group Seminar Presentation/Discussant (15%)** – various due dates. You will do a short presentation in a group. You will be asked to sign up for a presentation date during the first and second weeks of class.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1 (September 7)**

**Topic – Introduction to the course**

**Readings:** Please read the course syllabus thoroughly

**Notes:** We will all meet during our scheduled class time of **Wed. September 7 at 11:30 a.m.**

### **Week 2 (September 14)**

**Topic – Formations of Otherness and Constructions of Reality**

**Reading:** Weston and Djohari, 2020, Chapter 2, “Human Zoos and Social Darwinism.”

### **Week 3 (September 21)**

**Topic - Re-thinking Histories and Notions of Truth**

**Readings:**

[https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/jan/18/how-to-kill-a-god-captain-cook-myth-shows-how-heroes-of-empire-will-fall?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/jan/18/how-to-kill-a-god-captain-cook-myth-shows-how-heroes-of-empire-will-fall?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

Obeyesekere, G. “The Apotheosis of Captain Cook” (on Avenue)

**Week 4 (September 28)**

**Topic – Anthropological Positionings**

**Reading:** Chapter 4, “Whose Side are You On?: Colonial and Military Complicity”

**Week 5 (October 5)**

**Topic – Midterm Take Home Test (held online). No in-person classes today.**

**Week 6 (Week of October 12): Reading Week. No classes.**

**Week 7 (October 19)**

**Topic – Margaret Mead and Derek Freeman – The Production of Essentialism in Ethnography**

**Readings:**

Mead, Margaret, “Coming of Age in Samoa” – Introduction (posted to A2L)

Weston and Djohari, 2020, Chapter 6, “Mead versus Freeman”

**Week 8 (October 26)**

**Topic: 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).

Weston and Djohari, 2020 Chapter 7, “Napoleon Chagnon and the ‘Fierce’ Controversy” (in our textbook)

**Week 9 (November 2)**

**Topic: Covert Ethnography and Fakery?**

**Readings:** Weston and Djohari, 2020 Rebekah Nathan and Covert Ethnography (in our textbook)

Weston and Djohari, 2020, Carlos Castenada and Fakery (in our textbook)

**Notes: Debate Paper #1 is due today, Nov. 2 (if you select paper #1)**

**Week 10 (November 9)**

**Topic: Re(constructing) and Representing the Past: Bias and the Search for Meaning**

**Readings:** Marks, Jonathan, "Neanderthal Genomics" (on Avenue to Learn)

[https://getpocket.com/explore/item/what-the-caves-are-trying-to-tell-us?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://getpocket.com/explore/item/what-the-caves-are-trying-to-tell-us?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

Reardon, T, and TallBear, Kim, "Your DNA is our History" (on Avenue to Learn)

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

### **Week 11 (November 16)**

**Topic – On "Accuracy" and Insider Status**

**Readings:** Weston and Djohari, 2020 Alice Goffman (in our textbook)

Naryan, Kirin, "How Native is a Native Anthropologist?" (posted to A2L)

### **Week 12 (November 23)**

**Topic - 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)

Valero, B, "Regarding the Moral Issue in Corporate Anthropology" (link posted on Avenue)

**Notes: Debate paper #2 is due to A2L by 11 p.m. (if you choose to do Debate paper #2)**

### **Week 13 (November 30)**

**Group Presentations/Distribution of Take home assignment**

**Week 14 (December 7): Take home assignment due to A2L on Dec. 7 by 11 p.m.**

**Notes: no seminar today.**

### **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:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
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**

10% off per 24-hour period late, or part thereof. So, for instance, if your paper is 3 hours late (and no extension has been granted), then you will receive a 10% deduction. Example: a grade of 8/10 would be reduced to 7/10 if your paper is 20 hours late. If it is 26 hours late, then the grade would be 6/10. Papers submitted more than 3 calendar days after the due date/time will not be graded and will receive a 0.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

Assignments submitted by e-mail **will not be accepted**. No extensions will be given unless you MSAF work, unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided, or unless Dr. McGarry has given you an extension. Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>).

### **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, usernames 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](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## **University Policies**

### **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.



## ADVISORY STATEMENTS

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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 behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

**All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

### ONLINE PROCTORING

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar’s Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.