

ANTHROPOLOGY 3PD3: PERSPECTIVES AND DEBATES IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall 2021

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Lecture: Lectures are asynchronous.
Seminar Tues. 8:30 or 9:30 via Zoom on dates listed below. See A2L for Zoom links

Office: Virtual office
Office Hours: Please email me to set up a time for a phone or virtual appointment via Zoom or Microsoft Teams

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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

- No required text. Links to all reading material are posted on A2L.

Class Format

Lectures are delivered asynchronously and are posted by each week. Synchronous Zoom sessions are held during class time on the dates posted below. Seminar Zoom links can be found on A2L.

The class will be divided (on the basis of your last name) into Groups 1 and 2. On the dates marked on the syllabus below, the seminar groups will meet for tutorial discussions. These sessions are mandatory to attend and you should come to class having done the required readings for that seminar theme.

Seminar Group 1: See A2L

Seminar Group 2: See A2L

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Midterm Take Home Test (20%) – due October 19 by 11 p.m. to A2L
2. Final Take Home assignment (15%) – due Dec. 7 by 11 p.m. to A2L
3. Choice of 2/3 short debate papers (50% - 25% each) – due Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Nov. 26
4. Participation in Zoom seminars (15%) – see dates for Zoom seminars below

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm & Final Take Homes (20%), due Oct. 19

The midterm is an essay-based test with a choice of short essays to choose from. You will not be asked to conduct any external research to answer the questions on this test.

Final Take Home (15%), due Dec. 7 by 11 p.m. to A2L. The final consists of a PowerPoint with notes.

Choice of 2/3 debate papers (50% - 25% each), due Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Nov. 26

You will be given three essay questions, each with different due dates. You will be asked to select 2/3 essays to complete. Each essay will be approximately 1400-1600 words in length.

Participation in Zoom seminars (see scheduled dates for Zoom seminars below) **(15%)** – 7.5% is allocated for attendance and 7.5% is for active participation (answering or asking questions, demonstrating familiarity with readings, etc.). One week prior to each Zoom session, I will post the questions that week will discuss in seminar on A2L.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Week of September 6)

Topic – Introduction to the course

Readings: Please read the course syllabus thoroughly

Notes: We will all meet briefly via Zoom on September 6 during our scheduled class time of Tuesday September 7 at 8:30 a.m. (apologies for the early time slot – I don't get to pick times)! Please see A2L for the Zoom link.

Week 2 (Week of September 13)

Topic – Formations of Otherness and Constructions of Reality

Readings: Bennett, T., *The Exhibitionary Complex* (Posted on Avenue to Learn)

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)

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by 11 p.m. September 13; no Zoom seminars this week.

Week 3 (Week of September 20)

Topic - Re-thinking Histories

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

Borofsky, Rob, "Cook, Lono, Obeyesekere, and Sahlins" (on Avenue to Learn)

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by September 20; **Seminar Group 1** meets on Tuesday September 21, 8:30-9:20 a.m. **Seminar Group 2** meets on Tuesday September 21, 9:30-10:20 a.m. See A2L for Zoom links.

Week 4 (Week of September 27)

Topic – Tourism and Representation

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

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by September 27; **Seminar Group 1** meets on Tuesday September 28, 8:30. **Seminar Group 2** meets on Tuesday September 28, 9:30. See A2L for Zoom link.

Week 5 (Week of October 4)

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

Readings:

Margaret Mead, Introduction to 'Coming of Age in Samoa' (on Avenue)

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)

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by October 4; Zoom seminar for **Seminar Group 1** on Tuesday Oct. 5, 8:30-9:20. **Seminar Group 2** meets on Tuesday Oct. 5, 9:30-10:20. See A2L for Zoom link.

******* Assignment 1 is due today (October 5) to A2L by 11 p.m. (if you choose assignment 1)**

Week 6 (Week of October 11): Reading Week. No classes.

Week 7 (Week of October 18)

Topic – Take home Midterm is due to A2L drop box by 11 p.m. on October 19.

Notes: No lectures or seminars this week.

Week 8 (Week of October 25) 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).

Porter, N., 2020 (You'll have to sign in you're your MacID):

<http://eds.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.lib.mcmaster.ca/eds/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=694e82c3-788a-4703-9ac2-7481ebd7d142%40sessionmgr4007&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#AN=89475933&db=ers>

Excerpts from Borofsky, R., "Yanomami: The Fierce Controversy" (posted on Avenue).

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by October 18; **no Zoom seminars this week.**

Week 8 (Week of November 1)

Readings: None. We will be discussing last week's Chagnon articles/debate in our Zoom seminars.

Notes: Seminar Group 1 meets November 2 at 8:30; Seminar Group 2 meets November 2 at 9:30.

Week 9 November 8 - 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 to Learn)

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

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by Nov. 8. Zoom seminar for **Seminar Group 1** on Tues. Nov. 9, 8:30-9:20. **Seminar Group 2** meets at 9:30-10:20 on Nov. 9. See A2L for Zoom link.

******Assignment 2 is due to A2L on Nov. 9 by 11 p.m. (if you choose to do assignment 2)**

Week 10 (Week of November 15)

Topic - Ethics, Anthropology and Military Engagements

Readings:

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

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

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

Notes: Lecture posted to A2L by November 15. No Zoom seminars this week.

Week 11 (Week of November 22)

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: Lecture posted to A2L by Nov. 22. No Zoom seminars.

*****Assignment 3 is due to A2L by 11 p.m. Friday November 26.**

Week 12 (Week of November 29)

Topic: Distribution of Take home exam and review session

Notes: Lecture/exam info posted to A2L by 11 p.m. Nov. 29

Week 13 (Week of Dec. 6): Take home assignment due on Dec. 7 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

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.

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/>). 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.

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.

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.

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 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.