

Anthropology 3PD3: Debates and Perspectives in Anthropology

Winter 2014

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

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Office: Chester New Hall, Room 531

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

Class Meeting Times: Monday and Wednesday 11:30-12:20 in BSB/106 and Friday from 1:30-2:20 in BSB/106

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.

Goals and Outcomes of Course

Appreciation of how the sub-fields 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.

Enable students to write a significant research paper.

Evaluation:

Debate Paper: (25%) – Due at the beginning of class on EITHER January 31 or March 7. More directions will be provided in class but you may choose the topic of museums (Jan. 27) or nostalgia (March 7) and you will be expected to write a paper and contribute to an in-class debate.

Research Paper Proposal/Discussion: (10% of grade) – various due dates between February 5 and 10. Students will sign up for a time slot with me for this week.

Peer editing: (5% of grade): March 10 and 12.

Final Research Paper: (35%) – due in class on March 26; 7-8 pages double spaced.

Take Home Final Exam (25% of grade) – Due on April 12 by noon

Policy on the Submission of Assignments - Assignments submitted by e-mail **will not be accepted**. No extensions will be given 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** late.

including weekend days. No assignments are accepted after 72 hours of the submission deadline, and you will receive a 0.

Missed Assessments or Exams -Students are responsible for arranging make-up exams/assignments with the instructor. **Please note – make-up exams will be in essay format.**

Course Materials and Avenue to Learn (ATL) -Lectures will be presented using Power Point, an abbreviated version of which will be posted weekly on ATL. You must be registered in the course to have access to the 3PD3 site. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn system.** You can access ATL at:

<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/?logout=1>

Correspondence - I will check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within approximately **48 hours**. Please put **3PD3 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence.

Student Behavior and Responsibilities –

Your learning – it is your responsibility to **keep up with the readings** – do not leave them until the night before the exams. Attendance in this class is **essential** if you want to do well in this course. You are expected to think about the readings and integrate them into the information and concepts presented during lecture.

Classroom behavior – Please **do not be afraid to ask questions** or provide constructive comments! If you do not understand something, or if I have gone over a concept too fast, stop me and ask a question. Chances are if you do not understand something, other people in the class are in the same position.

Please ensure that cell phones are turned off (including text messaging, Twitter, etc...) and **arrive on time for class**. If you have to leave class early, please sit near one of the exits. **Laptop computers** may be used in class for taking notes, but students using their computers for any other purpose (e.g., checking Facebook) will be asked to turn their computers off. Please be polite to your neighbours and **keep conversation to a minimum**.

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.**

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

Student Accessibility Services: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca> MUSC-B107 905-525-9140 x28652

NOTE: Disclosure of disability-related information is personal and confidential.

Student Accessibility Services offers various supports for students with disabilities. We work with full time and part time students. SAS provides or assists students with their academic and disability-related needs, including: Learning Strategies, Assistive Technologies, Test & Exam Administration, Note-Taking Programs, Classroom Accommodations. Please inform the instructor if there are disability needs that are not being met.

McMaster University Policy on Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities & McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Policy

• <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

Special Accommodations -

Any student with special learning needs should contact Dr. McGarry by the end of the **second week** of classes at the latest. You must have written confirmation from Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Center for Student Development). Students can contact SAS to arrange assistance in the completion of exams. <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>

Student Success Centre: <http://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca> GH-110 905-525-9140 x24254 Provides the following services: student orientation, academic skills, leadership, service-learning, volunteerism, educational planning, employment and career transition.

Student Wellness Centre <http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/> MUSC-B101& B106 905-525-9140 x27700 Provides services in: Personal and Psychological Counselling, Mental Health Support, Medical and Health Services

Class Schedule:

January 6: Introduction to the course.

Please read the course syllabus thoroughly.

Part I: HISTORICIZING ANTHROPOLOGY

January 8, 10 and 13: Early Histories

Reading: “The Early History of Anthropological Theory,” by Erikson and Murphy, pp. 1-48 (posted on Avenue to Learn)

January 15: Discussion of Course Assignments

Reading: none

Part II: WAYS OF KNOWING

January 17: Foucault’s theory of power (youtube, 8m):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvsRrjfQbRw&feature=related>

Edward Said, “Orientalism” (electronic resource, 40m):

<http://www.library.yorku.ca/e/resolver/id/1924681>

Colonial Ideology & Propaganda: <http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk/node/387>

Reading: 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 20: Modernity and the Problem of Representation

Reading: Mitchell, Timothy, Colonizing Egypt, chapter 1 (on Avenue to Learn)

January 22: Representing “Others” and Situating Knowledge: The Case of Museums

Reading: Rubinstein, Steven, “Shuar Heads” (posted on Avenue to Learn)

Barringer and Flynn, “Colonialism and the Object” (posted on Avenue to Learn)

January 24: The Case of Sara Baartman

Film: *The Life and Times of Sara Baartman*

January 27: Discussion of Film

January 29: Thinking and Acting Ethically

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

<http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/faculty/Walker/Published/publications/PLW%202004%20Documenta.pdf>

January 31: Debate -- Should Museums Be Closed?

Debate Paper is due at the beginning of class today.

February 3: Thinking Anthropologically: 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)

February 5: Proposal Discussions

February 7: Proposal Discussions

February 10: Proposal Discussions

Part II: TIME AND SPACE

February 12 and 14: Conceiving of Deep History

Reading: Shyrock et al. “Imagining the Human in Deep Time” (posted on Avenue)

February 17-February 22 – Reading Break. No classes.

February 24: Experiencing Time and Space

Reading: Hodder “The Invention of History” (posted on Avenue)

Wednesday February 26: Time and Modernity

Reading: “Time, Work-Discipline and Industrial Capitalism” by E.P. Thompson (posted on Avenue)

Friday February 28: Time and the “Other”

Reading: Fabian, Johannes (posted on Avenue)

March 3: Nostalgia

Reading: Stewart, Kathleen, “Nostalgia: A Polemic” (posted on Avenue)

Wednesday March 5: Debate/Discussion --- Find an example in our pop culture media/entertainment industry of nostalgia. Using this example as a starting point, discuss whether nostalgia is a positive force or a negative force (or neither?) in our culture.

Friday March 7: Debate/Discussion, con’t

Paper #2 is due today.

Monday March 10: Peer Editing

Wednesday March 12: Peer Editing

THEME #3: EMBODIMENT

Friday March 14: Introduction: What does it mean to embody?

Reading: “Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology” by Thomas J. Csordas (posted on Avenue)

Monday March 17: The Flesh, Blood and Bone body

Reading: Sofaer “The body as archaeological resource” (posted on Avenue)

Wednesday March 19: Representing the body

Reading: “The Egg and the Sperm” by Emily Martin (posted on Avenue)

Friday March 21: The Commodified Body

Reading: “The Commodification of the Body and Its Parts” by Lesley Sharp (posted on Avenue)

Monday March 24: Guest Speaker -- TBA

Wednesday March 26: FINAL PAPERS are due today

Friday March 28: The End of the Body?

Reading: “The End of the Body” by Emily Martin

March 31: The Future of Theory?

Reading: Stewart, Kathleen, “Weak Theory in an Unfinished World” (posted on Avenue)

Wednesday April 2: The Future of Theory, Part II

Friday April 4: Discussion and Distribution of Take Home Test

Monday April 7: No class. Office hours will be posted to discuss test