

ANTH 2F03

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Fall 2019

Mondays 7-9 p.m.

BSB B136

Instructor: Professor Yana Stainova

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Office: Chester New Hall 511

Office hours: Tuesdays 1.30-3.30 p.m.

Tutorial 01 on Monday from 6:00-7:00pm in BSB B136

Tutorial 02 on Monday from 6:00-7:00pm in KTH B105

Tutorial 03 on Monday from 6:00-7:00pm in KTH B104

Tutorial 04 on Monday from 9:00-10:00pm in HH 217

Tutorial 05 on Monday from 9:00-10:00pm in TSH B126

Tutorial 06 on Monday from 9:00-10:00pm in JHE 210

Course Description

Anthropology is a comparative study of cultures, societies, and the infinitely diverse ways of being in the world. The field seeks to provide knowledge about how people's lives and behaviors are shaped by social relations, politico-economic systems, and historical forces. We are interested in all types of societies, from rural indigenous communities to urban industrial settings. Based on ethnographic accounts, the course will introduce students to the primary domains of social and cultural anthropology: race and racism; gender and sexuality; kinship and social organization; religion and belief; deviancy and social control; inequality, power, and political violence; sickness and healing; social suffering and addiction. The course will introduce the student to anthropology's core concepts, theories, and methods, as well as some debates in the discipline.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Define key terms and concepts in anthropology in your own words.

- Develop an understanding of how anthropologists use ethnography to comprehend, analyze, and translate cultural similarity and difference.
- Reflect on your own cultural biases and enhance your understanding of, and appreciation for, human difference.
- Apply the tools of anthropology to the analysis of current social problems and imagining alternative futures.
- Use the methods and sensibilities of anthropology for thinking about your own life, engaging in cross-cultural interactions with your peers, and building your own community.

Required Materials and Texts

- Kulick, Don. *Travesti*.
- Garcia, Angela. *The Pastoral Clinic*.
- Hamdy, Sherine and Coleman Nye. *Lissa*.

All books are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and/or at the Reserve Desk in Mills Memorial Library. All articles or other media are available through the library and/or accessible through Avenue to Learn.

You are required to do the readings *before* class on the date that they are assigned. In order to reference readings in class, you are also required to **bring hard copies**—that is, the books and printed articles—unless otherwise indicated. If the costs of printing documents or purchasing textbooks are prohibitive, please speak with me.

Class Format

Although this is a large introductory class, it is an *interactive lecture*. Our classroom will be an engaging, experiential space. Most weeks will include a combination of lectures, small group work, discussion of readings, and interactive intellectual engagement and reflection. The lectures will be in conversation with the readings for that day, which is why it is important to come to class after having completed the readings. You will have the opportunity to engage in greater detail with the readings and to share your opinions about them during the discussion sections.

Course Evaluation

The success of the course depends on your commitment to completing all the required readings for each class and section meeting, to critically reflect on the readings, to participate actively in class and group discussions, and to creatively integrate these insights in the written assignments.

First take-home essay: 750 words — 20% of grade

Second take-home essay: 1000 words — 25% of grade

Each of the essays will ask you to engage with core concepts we have covered in class. Details about the essays will be provided 2 weeks before they are due. The word count on these essays is strict so that you can develop skills essential to writing: editing and making each word count.

Three pop quizzes: 10% each (20%) of grade

Three times during the semester, **at the beginning of class**, I will hand out an assignment to be completed in class (one per section). Students will NOT be alerted ahead of time. Answers will be graded as follows: (1) check plus/10 points: your answer is clearly formulated, accurate, and demonstrates a sound understanding of the reading/concepts; (2) check/9 points: your answer is mostly correct, demonstrates some familiarity with the reading, but is incomplete or awkwardly formulated; (3) check minus/8 points: the answer is partially correct, but demonstrates inadequate understanding of the reading, or is poorly formulated; (4) minus/7 points: there is an answer but it demonstrates little engagement with the reading; (5) zero/0-5 points: the response demonstrates minimal to no familiarity with the readings. You are allowed to miss one quiz without it negatively impacting your grade. If you complete all three quizzes, I will drop the one with the lowest grade and use the other two to calculate your grade.

Participation/Group Work: 20% of grade

This class involves significant participation. I recognize that there are different ways of participating: speaking up in class during lectures, participating thoughtfully in small group work, putting care in your assignments, showing up to office hours. I do not expect all of you to show participation in the same way. At the same time, I believe that it is important to voice your ideas and reactions to the class themes and readings through participating in conversation with your peers, your TAs, and me. In discussion sections, you will discuss the ethnographies we are reading, and link them to the material presented in class meetings. You must have completed the reading for that week before attending the discussion section meeting and the class meeting. Your participation grade is based on your performance in the discussion section. TAs will take note of who speaks, how often, and the quality of participation.

Final exercise — 15% of grade

Course Policies

Respect: Academic Discourse, Class Climate, and Inclusivity

A core social value in anthropology is **respect**. Acting with respect means attempting to imagine the world through the eyes of another person, honoring their worth and their contributions to the community. In this classroom, you are likely to encounter ideas that you find surprising or even unsettling. You should feel free to voice your opinions; at the same time you should feel free to — respectfully — challenge ideas with which you disagree. When engaging in discussion, I encourage you to listen — to be attentive to the experiences and views of others (our authors and your peers) before formulating your own arguments, reactions, and critiques. One of the most important things I hope you will learn in this class is that a diversity of backgrounds and opinions is not a threat but an opportunity for thinking about and addressing social issues that concern us all.

Electronics in the classroom

The use of cellphones is **not allowed** in class. You may use laptops exclusively for the purpose of taking notes in class. Please do not use your computers for browsing the web or multitasking, as this is distracting to other students and has a negative impact on your learning outcomes. There will be

times during class when you will not need to take notes and I will ask you to close your computers.

Email and communication

My preferred method of communication with students is **face-to-face** during office hours. I am also happy to address minor questions or concerns before or after class or during breaks. If this is not possible, you may also email me. I try to reply to emails or follow up in class within 24 hours, except for weekends when I will be offline. If you have a seriously urgent issue, please note this in your email subject line and/or drop by my office, and also be in touch with your class dean.

Submission of Assignments

All written work (essays) will be submitted in electronic copy through the Dropbox function on the course's ATL website; hard copies may also be required. Ungraded work will not be accepted or date stamped by the administrative staff in the Department of Anthropology. All written work (essays and blog posts) are subject to evaluation for originality. This course uses an evaluation service provided by Turnitin.com, which students may opt out of; in this case, Grammarly.com will be used. If you would like to opt out of evaluation by Turnitin.com, please let the instructor know before October 1.

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

Turning in assignments late creates a cascading problem for the student, peers who are collaborating on assignments, and me. If you need accommodations, you must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. 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](#)." Unless there is a critical problem and/or this issue has not been communicated with me in advance, I will deduct 5% of the grade for each day an assignment is late up until a grade of 50. After this point, I will only accept a late assignment for 50% of its value.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Although this is a large introductory course and I do not take attendance, being present in class is imperative. If you know that you will need to miss class for a school-sponsored activity, or if you experience a serious illness or family emergency, please communicate this with me, so we can develop a plan. I will not use office hours to individually tutor students through material that they missed due to an absence.

You are also expected to arrive to class **on time** and remain in class for the entire period (bathroom breaks excluded!). This is another manifestation of respect for me and for your fellow students. Since pop quizzes will be handed out at the beginning of class, being late will make you miss the quiz and you will receive 0 points for it.

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.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1, September 9: *Introduction to the Course*

Readings: The syllabus
Coates, Ta Nehisi. "Acting French." [The Atlantic: Acting-French](#)

Week 2, September 16: *The Concept of Culture*

Readings: Kulick, Don. Introduction + Chapter 1: Pg. 1-44

Week 3, September 23: *Race, An Anthropological History*

Readings: Kulick, Don. Chapter 2: Pg. 44-96

Week 4, September 30: *Social Suffering*

Readings: Kulick, Don. Chapter 3: Pg. 96-134

Week 5 October 7: *Gender, Sexuality, and the Essentialist/ Constructivist Debate*

Readings: Kulick, Don. Chapter 5: Pg. 191-239

Assignment due: October 9 @ 5 p.m.

Week 6 October 14 (Fall recess no class)

Week 7, October 21: *Ethics and the Limits of Ethnography*

Readings: Garcia, Angela. Introduction and Chapter 1: Pg. 1-68

Week 8, October 28: *Memory, Violence and Place*

Readings: Garcia, Angela. Chapter 2: Pg. 69-111

Week 9, November 4: *Kinship*

Readings: Garcia, Angela. Chapter 3: Pg. 111-150

Week 10, November 11: *Neoliberalism*

Readings: Garcia, Angela. Chapter 5 and conclusion: Pg.183-211.

Assignment due: November 13 @ 5 p.m.

Week 11, November 18: *Gifts, Commodities and the Body*

Readings: Hamdy and Nye, Foreward, Part I and Part II. Pg. 11-145

Week 12, November 25: *Revolution, Migration and Social Change*

Readings: Hamdy and Nye, Part III, Afterword, Appendix I. Pg. 145-264

Week 13, December 2:

Final assignment due in class