

# **INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY: RACE, RELIGION, & CONFLICT**

**Fall 2019**

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**Lecture:** Thursdays 7-10PM

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## **Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the field of anthropology and its sub-disciplines through the discussion of some big questions that anthropologists investigate in contemporary and past societies. Some of the issues explored in this course include; religion and worldview, race and racism, power and inequality, and violence and conflict from archaeological, biological, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. Through this course you will develop an understanding of how the anthropological approach can be used to better understand the human condition, past and present.

## **Course Objectives**

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

- understand the diversity of research in anthropology
- understand the theories, methods, and techniques used by anthropologists
- examine the human place in nature from an anthropological perspective
- relate anthropological knowledge and practices to society as a whole
- think critically about contemporary issues and debates
- enhance analytic and critical thinking skills through readings and written assignments

## **Required Materials and Texts**

The required texts are packaged together:

- Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion, and Conflict – McMaster 3<sup>rd</sup> Custom Edition, Nelson Education Ltd
- National Geographic Archaeology Reader

## **Class Format**

One three-hour lecture weekly with interactive peer to peer learning approach.

Participation is expected in each class.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Race, Religion, Conflict, & Research [20%, due Nov 14]
2. Identity Reflection [20%, due Nov 28]
3. Midterm Exam [30%, on Oct 24]
4. Final Exam [30%, in exam period]

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research (20%), due Nov 14**

This is a group of basic research tasks that you can complete in any combination, which will contribute points towards this component of your final grade. There is a maximum of 20 points available for a maximum of 20% of your final grade in this grade item. **Task submissions must be made online to the appropriate areas of Avenue indicated in the handout. All submissions made until 11:59PM on November 14 will be graded, but submissions made after November 14 will NOT be accepted.**

### **Identity Reflection (20%), due Nov 28**

On November 14, we will be watching and discussing a documentary on the topic of identity, and you will be writing a guided reflection on your experiences. On November 7, you will be provided with specific questions to direct your thinking in this reflection. Your reflection will be 750 +/- 50 words long, and **must be submitted online to the designated Avenue Dropbox by 11:59PM on November 28.**

### **Midterm Exam (30%), on Oct 24**

The midterm exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, covering material prior to the day of the midterm. The exam will be held **in our classroom during our regularly scheduled lecture time on October 24.**

### **Final Exam (30%), in exam period**

The final exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, covering material taught after the midterm exam. The exam will be held **during the exam period (December 6-19).**

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

### **Week 1 (Sept 2-6)**

#### **Sept 5 – *Introduction to Anthropology***

Welcome to Anthropology 1AB3

What is anthropology?

#### **Readings:**

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.17-47

#### **Notes:**

Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research assignment begins

### **Week 2 (Sept 9-13)**

#### **Sept 12**

Library Resources

Critical Evaluation

#### **Readings:**

Rekdal Article

King Article

### **Week 3 (Sept 16-20)**

#### **Sept 19 – *Religion & Ritual***

What is worldview? What is religion?

How do anthropologists study religion?

#### **Readings:**

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.97-108

National Geographic Reader pp.28-53

## **Week 4 (Sept 23-27)**

### **Sept 26**

How does ritual fit into our lives?

How do we appeal to greater powers?

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.109-117

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.126-130

Gmelch Article

## **Week 5 (Sept 30 – Oct 4)**

### **Oct 3**

How do we resolve multiple religious influences?

Religious syncretism, transition, & resistance

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.118-125

Worsley Article

## **Week 6 (Oct 7-11)**

### **Oct 10 – *Power & Conflict***

How do we order society?

How do we produce and maintain order?

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.63-76

National Geographic Reader – pp.70-95

## **Week 7 (Oct 14-18)**

### **Oct 17 – *Midterm Recess***

No classes

Readings: none

**Week 8 (Oct 21-25)**

**Oct 24 – Midterm Exam**

**written in our regular lecture time and room**

Readings: still none

**Week 9 (Oct 28 – Nov 1)**

**Oct 31**

Where does power reside?

How is power distributed?

Readings:

Bourgois Article

**Week 10 (Nov 4-8)**

**Nov 7**

How is power resisted?

How is violence rationalised and justified?

What is the role of anthropology in international conflict?

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.133-157

Gorski Article

Notes:

Identity Reflection handout posted to Avenue on Nov 7

## **Week 11 (Nov 11-15)**

### **Nov 14 – *Race & Identity***

Who are we? What is identity?

How do different cultures think about themselves & others?

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.48-63

Bringa Article

Identity Reflection Handout

Notes:

Identity Reflection assignment begins

Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research assignment ends

NO SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED AFTER 11:59PM ON NOVEMBER 14

## **Week 12 (Nov 18-22)**

### **Nov 21**

What is race? What is ethnicity?

What is the role of privilege in racism?

Readings:

Sanders Article

## **Week 13 (Nov 25-29)**

### **Nov 28**

What about the class, gender, and other social hierarchies?

What do our identities mean in a digital world?

Final Exam Review

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.76-96

Notes:

Identity Reflection due by 11:59PM on November 28

Must be submitted online to the designated Avenue Dropbox

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments will be submitted on Avenue. Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research task submissions must be made online to the appropriate areas of Avenue indicated in the assignment handout. Identity Reflection must be submitted online to the designated Avenue Dropbox.

### **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**

Unless otherwise noted, all unexcused late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day. Late assignments will not be accepted after 7 days beyond the original deadline without appropriate documentation from the Office of the Associate Dean of Social Sciences.

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

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”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015.

If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office. <http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work>

Typically the MSAF assures you an extension on the assignment or the opportunity to write a make-up test or midterm exam. Grade items are only reweighted under extreme circumstances (e.g. long-term illness, bereavement, etc.).

## **Correspondence**

Most questions can and should be asked in class or during office hours. However, if you have a quick question or comment and need to email me, please feel free to do so. I check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within **~48 hours**. Please put **1AB3 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence. I cannot respond to lengthy questions over email but will be happy to discuss them in person. If office hours conflict with your schedule please let me know and we can make other arrangements. If an emailed question is relevant to the rest of the class, I will post a response on Avenue or discuss it in the next class. Feel free to post questions relevant to course content in the discussion forum of the course web site.

## **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.

## **Echo360**

Each lecture will be video recorded and you will be able to access the videos and lecture PPTs through Avenue. Lecture podcasts will be posted to Echo360 and accessible through the link on Avenue within about 24 hours of each lecture. The podcast system is not 100% reliable; do not rely on podcasts only.

## **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**

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

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](mailto: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.

## **AODA Information**

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Marcia Furtado at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email [furtam1@mcmaster.ca](mailto:furtam1@mcmaster.ca)