

Anthropology 1AB3/Religious Studies 1R03
Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion and Conflict

Department of Anthropology

Winter 2019

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

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Office: Chester New Hall, Room 531

Office Hours: 5:15-6:15 p.m. in CNH 531 or by appointment

Lectures: Mondays 7-9:50 p.m. in MDCL 1305

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the field of Anthropology and its sub-disciplines through the discussion of some of the 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:

Through this course, you will:

- Discover the diversity of research in the sub-disciplines of anthropology related to specific themes;
- Acquire a sound grasp of the scope of anthropological research and practice, as well as a sensitivity to anthropological forms of understanding and knowledge;
- Improve your ability to develop an argument, research evidence to support your position, and express your ideas effectively in written language.

Required Texts:

1. Custom text (third edition) for *1AB3, 2016-17: Race, Religion, and Conflict*, available at the bookstore. Note that this text has a BLUE cover. Do not buy any other editions.
2. Annual Editions, Anthropology 1AB3, by McGraw-Hill – Custom text available at the bookstore.

Class Format:

One three hour lecture weekly

WHO IS MY TA? - Graduate Teaching Assistants: While there are **no tutorials** in this course, each of you will be assigned a TA **based upon your last name**. Your TA will be grading your critical thinking assignments, and he/she will hold office hours each week. Please see your TA during his/her office hours if you have any problems/questions/concerns about the assignments. In addition, all concerns re: grading of assignments should be directed to your TA.

TA information: office hours, etc. TBA. Your TA's name, office hour and email will be posted to Avenue during the second week of classes.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. **Test #1: 25%** -- held in class on February 25th
2. **Assignment #1: 25%** - by 4 p.m. Electronic copies (no hard copies are handed in) to Avenue to Learn by January 28 at 11 p.m.
3. **Assignment #2: 25%** - due by April 8 at 11 p.m. to Avenue to Learn. Electronic copies (no hard copies are handed in).
4. **Test #2: 25%** -- held in class on April 1

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm Test: The midterm test is worth 25% of your final mark and it is held during our regular class on February 25. This test covers the first half of course material. More details to be provided in class.

Two course activities/assignments: You will have two essay-based assignments (approximately 1500 words each) to complete. Each is worth 25% of your final grade. See above for due dates.

Final Exam: The exam on April 1 will consist of multiple choice questions only. They will cover all assigned readings, lectures, films, guest talks (if applicable), and other course material from the midterm onward.

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/>). Please see the assignment for directions on using an MSAF on our assignments as there are restrictions in place.

Late penalties: 20% off per 24-hour period (or part thereof late) for assignments, up to 72 hours (including weekends). After 72 hours, a grade of 0 is allocated.

Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments:

We cannot communicate with you over email re: grades. If you are concerned or confused about the grading of your assignment after you get it back, then your first step is to see your TA during their office hours. After this, if you still have questions, then please see Professor McGarry during her office hours. Remember that I grade your work carefully and rarely change grades. If you would like me to reappraise your work, then please submit (to Professor McGarry) the original paper with a maximum 300-word (typed) explanation of why you think you deserve a higher mark. The Professor will read your paper and your grade may go up, go down or stay the same. Generally speaking, marks do not tend to increase. There was only one case last year of a grade increase. Remember that in first year university courses, student grades, on average, tend to decrease at least 10-15% from high school averages...and that's assuming that you are putting a lot of effort into your work. In other words, it takes a lot more effort and hard work to achieve the "A" grade that you may have easily received in high school. Please also note that

marks are not awarded (unfortunately!) for effort but for the quality of the final product (achievement).

Please note – all deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format – no multiple choice.

MSAF (McMaster Student Absence Form)

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.

Avenue to Learn (ATL) -Lectures will be presented using Power Point, an abbreviated version of which will be posted on ATL. You must be registered in the course to have access to the 1AA3 site. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn system.**

You can access ATL at: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/?logout=1>

Lecture Capture/Podcasts: We will NOT be using lecture capture for this course.

Correspondence - I will check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within approximately **48 hours**. Please put **1AA3 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**.

NOTE THAT ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED: We do not re-distribute/re-weight grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension on work missed.

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.**

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.

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/>. SAS is located in **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>

Student Success Centre: <http://studentssuccess.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

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 requiring a RISO accommodation 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.

NOTE: *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 their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.*

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Lecture Schedule:

NOTE: Our class lecture schedule, below, lists the page numbers of readings that should be completed prior to each lecture.

January 7: Introduction to the Course/What is Anthropology?

Reading: pages 1-14 of the textbook, and page 23 (beginning with question 1.1 page 23) to page 36 (up to end of question 1.2).

What are some of the key goals and tenets of anthropology? What kind of a career can I have with a degree in anthropology?

January 14: a) Distribution and Discussion of Assignments

Reading: None required. Please download and print a copy of the assignment (posted on Avenue) and bring to class – or follow along on a laptop. I will not be distributing hard copies in class;

b) What is identity?

Readings: textbook, pages 48-68 (you do NOT need to read section 6.6 on p. 48). Also see p. 111-112 (Rites of Passage and Rites of Intensification)

January 21: What is worldview? What is religion?

Readings: textbook, pages 97-109 (stop reading when you get to the Shamanism section)

Sosis, Richard, The Adaptive Value of Religious Ritual (starting page 30 in Annual Editions text)

Gmelch, George. 2010. "Baseball Magic." Pp.320-327 *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion: A Reader in the Anthropology of Religion, Eighth Edition*, edited by Pamela A. Moro and James E. Myers. New York: McGraw Hill. [Available on Avenue]

January 28: Witchcraft: An Anthropological Perspective

Readings: Brain, James L., "An Anthropological Perspective on the Witchcraze" (Link on Avenue); see also pages 113-114 (section on Witchcraft in text)

Winzeler, Robert L. 2012. "Chapter 8: Witchcraft and Sorcery: Past and Present, Far and Near." Pp. 131-153 in *Anthropology and Religion: What We Know, Think, and Question Second Edition*. Plymouth, UK: AltaMira Press. [E-book available on McMaster library website]

This week: "Witchcraft among the Azande" film

Assignment 1 due to Avenue by 11 p.m.

**February 4: Monsters: Vampires and Zombies/Religious Syncretism: Cargo cults
Why do people believe in supernatural beings like the "undead?"**

Readings: Barber, Paul, "The Real Vampire" (link posted on Avenue)

Tucker, Abigail, "The Great New England Vampire Panic" (starting on page 1 in Annual Editions text)

Worsley, Peter, "50 Years Ago: Cargo Cults of Melanesia" (link posted on Avenue); also read text page 118-120 (up to section on secularism)

February 11: Cultural appropriation and religious change

Reading: text, pages 120-123

Film: *White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men*

February 18: No class. Reading Week.

February 25: Midterm Exam in class

March 4 and 11: Social Hierarchy, Race and White Privilege

Readings: text, pages 70-85 (just prior to the section on "Gender" on pg. 85); pages 91-93

Peggy McIntosh reading (posted on Avenue)

Jablonski and Chaplin, "Skin Deep" (in McGraw-Hill reader starting page 7)

Mukhopadhyay and Henze, "How Real is Race?" (in McGraw-Hill reader starting page 12)

Bourgois, Philippe, (article posted on Avenue)

March 18 and 25: Violence and Conflict

Readings: text, chapter 6 (pages 132-157)

Lee, Richard Borshay, “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari” (in McGraw-Hill reader starting page 21)

Jost, Kenneth, “Understanding Islam” (in McGraw-Hill reader starting page 37)

Lawton, Graham, “Losing our Religion” (in McGraw-Hill reader starting page 43)

Also watch *We are all Neighbours* (film) – link provided in class.

April 1: Final test held in class

April 8: Assignment #2 due to Avenue by 11 p.m.