

Anthropology 1AB3: *Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion and Conflict*

Department of Anthropology

McMaster University, Fall 2017

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Lectures: Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30-10:20 a.m.; Tuesdays 10:30-11:20 a.m.

Lecture Location: Togo Salmon Hall, Room 120

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.

Learning 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:

Custom text for *1AB3, 2016-17: Race, Religion, and Conflict*, available at the bookstore. Note that this is bundled with a Nat'l Geographic booklet.

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

Learning Assessments and due dates:

1. **Test #1: 25%** -- held in class on October 24th.
2. **Assignment #1: 25%** - due on October 5th by 4 p.m. Electronic copies (no hard copies are handed in) to Avenue by 4 p.m.
3. **Assignment #2: 25%** - due December 4th by 4 p.m. Electronic copies (no hard copies are handed in) to Avenue by 4 p.m.
4. **Test #2: 25%** -- held in class on November 28th.

Policy on the Submission of Assignments - Assignments submitted by e-mail and hard copies **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 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.** For example, if an assignment is due at 4 p.m. on a Wednesday, and you submit at 5 p.m. on the due date, then 20% is deducted. If you submit at 5 p.m. the next day (Thursday), then 40% is deducted since we are into the second period of 24 hours.

Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments: We cannot communicate with you over email re: grades. You must see us in person during office hours. If you are concerned or confused about the grading of your assignment after you get it back, then your **first step is to talk to your TA** (not the Professor, unless Professor McGarry marked it. If she did mark it, then this will be clearly indicated with her signature on your work – otherwise please assume that your TA marked your work) during office hours. If, after this meeting, you are still concerned and/or you would like Professor McGarry 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 received in high school. Please also note that marks **are not awarded (unfortunately!) for effort but for the quality of the final product (achievement).**

Missed Assessments or Exams -Students are responsible for arranging make-up exams/assignments (if they qualify for a makeup) with the instructor. **Please note – make-up and/or deferred exams will be in essay format.**

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.

Please also note: Because all assignments and tests in this class are worth 25% or more, you cannot MSAF anything in this particular class.

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: will be posted on Avenue approximately 3-4 days after each lecture date. NOTE: films and guest lectures (depending upon copyright agreements) may NOT be podcast. In addition, the podcast system is not 100% accurate, so please do not rely upon podcasts only. It is best to attend class regularly. Podcasts are available for online streaming and individual student use only.

Correspondence - I will check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within approximately **48 business hours**. Please put **1AB3 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 neighbors 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.**

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]_[SEP]

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own for which other credit has been obtained.^[1]_[SEP]
2. Improper collaboration in group work.^[1]_[SEP]
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 Counseling, Mental Health Support, Medical and Health Services

***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.*

Lecture Schedule:

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

September 5: Introduction to the Course

Reading: None. Please read the course syllabus thoroughly, and start doing readings for next class.

September 7 and 11: 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?

September 12: Distribution and Discussion of Assignment #1

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

September 14: Representing Others

Reading: Todd Sanders reading (posted on Avenue)

September 18: No class

September 19 and 21: 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)

September 25: Information Session on how to find peer reviewed journal articles.

Guest speaker: University Librarian will show you how to find journal articles. Please be present for this session.

Readings: none for today

September 26: What is worldview? What is religion?

Reading: textbook, pages 97-105 (stop reading when you get to the Shamanism section)

September 28: How did religions develop?

Reading: textbook, pages 105 (starting with “Shamanism”) to page 109; see also the National Geographic article in text appended to the 1AB3 textbook

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]

October 2: 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]

October 3: Film, *Witchcraft among the Azande*

October 5: Monsters: Vampires and Zombies

Why do people believe in supernatural beings like the “undead?”

Reading: Barber, Paul, “The Real Vampire” (link posted on Avenue)

#####Assignment 1 due to Avenue to Learn today. Please submit your electronic copy to Avenue by 4 p.m. today.

October 9-15: Mid-term Recess. No classes are held this week.

October 16: Religious Syncretism: Cargo Cults

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

October 17: Cultural appropriation and religious change

Reading: text, pages 120-123

*******Assignment #1 is due today by 4 p.m.** Please submit online (no hard copies) to the Avenue Drop box by 4 p.m. today. Note that your work must be submitted as a Word file or as a PDF. Please refer to the late penalties on the assignment sheet, or on page 2 of this syllabus.

October 19: Film: *White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men*

October 23: Study Day!

October 24: Midterm Test during lecture period

October 26, 30 and 31: Social Hierarchy and Race

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

November 2: White Privilege and Racism, part I

Reading: Please see the link to the Peggy McIntosh reading posted on Avenue

November 6: Case study: Social Hierarchy, White Privilege and Racism

Reading: Philippe Bourgois reading (posted on Avenue)

November 7, 9: Violence and Conflict

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

November 13: *We are all Neighbours* (film) – No class today.

November 14: Violence and Conflict – chapter 6 con't

November 16: Ethno-religious Nationalism and Conflict

Reading: Eller, Jack David. (2010). "Chapter 6: Ethnoreligious Conflict." Pp. 207-340 in *Cruel Creeds, Virtuous Violence: Religious Violence across Culture and History*. New York: Prometheus Books. [Available on Avenue]

November 20: Military/Anthropological Collaboration? Part 1

Readings: text, re-read pages 153-157

Price, David H. (2011). "Chapter 12-Working for Robots: Human Terrain, Anthropologists and the War in Afghanistan." Pp. 193-200 in *Weaponizing Anthropology*. California: AK Press. [Available on Avenue]

November 21: Military/Anthropological Collaboration? Part II

Readings: continuation of Nov. 20 readings

November 23: Why does anthropology matter? What opportunities are available in anthropology? What else do anthropologists do besides study race, religion and conflict?

Reading: text, pages 40-47

November 27: Study Day

November 28: Final test held in class

November 30: Peer review session held in class for final papers

December 4: Final essay is due today to the Avenue Drop box by 4 p.m.