

**Anthropology 1AB3: *Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion and Conflict (also cross-listed with Religious Studies 1R03)***

**Department of Anthropology**

**Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Dr. Emily Cowall

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**Office:** Chester New Hall, Room 515

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 5:15-6:15 p.m. in CNH 515 or by appointment

**Lectures:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-9:30 p.m. (18:30-21:30) in Wilson Building Interactive classroom LRW-1057

**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 an active learning environment.

**Required Text:**

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.

**Class Format:**

Two, three hour lectures weekly with interactive peer to peer learning approach. Participation is expected in each class.

**Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. **Mid-Term Multiple Choice Exam: Course content up to Mid-term 55%**
2. **Final Multiple Choice exam: Course content after Mid-term Exam 45%**

**Materials used for examination questions: Textbook, lecture slides, lecture discussions, films/media**

### **Course Evaluation – Details**

**Midterm Test:** The midterm test is worth **55%** of your final mark and it is held during our regular class on May 30. This test covers the first half of course material. More details to be provided in class.

**Final Exam:** The final exam is worth **45%** of your final mark. The exam on June 20th 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.

**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 1AB3 site. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn system.**

You can access ATL at: [Avenue To Learn](#)

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

**Correspondence** - I will check my email regularly throughout the week (not on weekends), so you can expect a response within approximately **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.

### **Student Behavior and Responsibilities –**

***Your learning*** – it is your responsibility to **keep up with the readings**. 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 let me know before class starts, and then sit near one of the exits for a smooth exit.

**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.

**NOTE THAT Both Examinations MUST BE COMPLETED:** We do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades.

### **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](http://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. Cowall by the end of the **second** class in the first week of semester 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. [Student Accessibility Services](#). 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**

- [Student Accommodations Policy](#)

**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

### **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.

### **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.

***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.

<p><b>Tuesday May 7</b></p>	<p><b>a) Distribution and Discussion of Assessments</b></p>	<p><b>b) Introduction to the Course/What is Anthropology?</b></p>	<p><b>Reading:</b> pages 1-14 of the textbook                  What are some of the key goals and tenets of anthropology?                  What kind of a career can I have with a degree in anthropology?</p>
<p><b>Thursday May 9</b></p>	<p><b>What is identity?</b>                   Active Learning #1</p>	<p><b>Readings:</b> 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)</p>	
<p><b>Tuesday May 14</b></p>	<p><b>What is worldview? What is religion?</b>                   Active Learning #2</p>	<p><b>Readings:</b> textbook, pages 97-109 (stop reading when you get to the Shamanism section)</p>	
<p><b>Thursday May 16</b></p>	<p><b>Witchcraft: An Anthropological Perspective</b>                   Active Learning #3</p>	<p><b>The anthropological importance of studying “Witchcraft among the Azande”</b></p>	

<p><b>Tuesday May 21</b></p>	<p><b>Monsters: Vampires and Zombies/Religious Syncretism: Cargo cults</b></p> <p>Active Learning #4</p>	<p><b>Why do people believe in supernatural beings like the “undead?”</b></p>	<p><b>Readings:</b> read text page 118-120 (up to section on secularism)</p>
<p><b>Thursday May 23</b></p>	<p><b>Cultural appropriation and religious change</b></p> <p>Active Learning #5</p>	<p><b>Reading:</b> text, pages 120-123</p>	<p>Film: <i>White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men</i></p>
<p><b>Tuesday May 28</b></p>	<p><b>Ofrendas and the fiesta de Vida y Morte</b></p> <p>Active Learning #6</p>		<p>Film: <i>Coco</i></p>
<p><b>Thursday May 30</b></p>	<p><b>Midterm Exam in class</b></p>	<p><b>Multiple Choice Exam</b></p>	<p>55%</p>
<p><b>Tuesday June 4</b></p>	<p><b>Social Hierarchy, Race and White Privilege</b></p> <p>Active Learning #7</p>	<p><b>Readings:</b> text, pages 70-85 (just prior to the section on “Gender” on pg. 85); pages 91-93</p> <p>Peggy McIntosh reading (posted on Avenue)</p> <p>Bourgois, Philippe, (article posted on Avenue)</p>	
<p><b>Thursday June 6</b></p>	<p><b>Social Hierarchy, Race and White Privilege con't</b></p>	<p>Active Learning #7 cont.</p>	

<b>Tuesday June 11</b>	<b>Violence and Conflict</b> <b>Active Learning #8</b>	<b>Readings:</b> text, chapter 6 (pages 132-157) <b>Also watch</b> <i>We are all Neighbours</i> (film) – link provided in class.	
<b>Thursday June 13</b>	<b>Violence and Conflict cont.</b>	<b>Active Learning # 8</b> Con't	
<b>KTH B135</b>	<b>Change of classroom location for last week of classes</b>		
<b>Tuesday June 18</b>	<b>Review</b>		
<b>Thursday June 20</b>	<b>Final Exam in class</b>	<b>Multiple Choice</b>	45%