

**- INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY: RACE, RELIGION AND CONFLICT –**

*ANTHROPOLOGY IAB3E, Term 2, 2016-17*

**Instructor:** Tristan Carter (Chester New Hall, Room 507)

**Contact:** [stringy@mcmaster.ca](mailto:stringy@mcmaster.ca)

**Office Hours:** Mondays 5.30-6.30, and by appointment

**Lecture Times & Location:** Thursdays, 7.00 – 10.00 pm – Chester New Hall Room 104 [CNH 104]

**Course Outline**

This course will introduce students to the field of Anthropology and its sub-disciplines through the discussion of some major questions that anthropologists investigate in contemporary and past societies. Some of the issues explored in this course include; identity, social hierarchy and race, religion and witchcraft, violence, conflict and cultural heritage 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
- Understand the theories, methods, and techniques used by anthropologists
- Develop an understanding of the human place in nature from an anthropological perspective
- Appreciate the relevance of anthropological knowledge and practices to society as a whole
- Think critically about contemporary issues and debates
- Enhance your comparative, analytic, and critical thinking skills through reading & written assignments

**Required Text:** *Anthropology IAB3. Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion and Conflict*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Custom Edition for McMaster University (Nelson Education) / plus the National Geographic Learning Reader *Archaeology: Cities, Empires, Religion, Migrations of the Past* (Wadsworth Cengage Learning).

- For details on which readings are associated with each lecture, see course *Avenue* facility.

*Note: The Government of Ontario requires that students be provided a no-extra-cost option for obtaining course credit. There is a copy of the required IAB3 textbooks on reserve (on 2 hour loan) in Mills library.*

**Teaching assistants:** three graduate TA's will grade your critical thinking assignments and are available for feedback by email or individual meetings on a weekly basis – details of their names, e-addresses, and when/where you can meet them will be posted on Avenue. All concerns re: grading should be directed to your TA (each of you will be assigned a specific TA).

**Assessments:** Course grades will be assigned based on the following learning assessments:

- Midterm Exam – 25% - held in class on **16<sup>th</sup> February**
  - Critical Thinking Assessments – 50%
    - Assessment I – to be submitted via Avenue by 7pm on **9<sup>th</sup> February** (25%)
    - Assessment II – to be submitted via Avenue by 7pm on **11<sup>th</sup> April** (25%)
  - Final Exam – 25% - to be taken in class on **30<sup>th</sup> March**.
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**Exams:** The exams will consist of multiple choice questions only. Tests will cover all lectures, assigned readings, films, guest talks, and other course material. **Mid-Term** – covers the material up until that date; **Final** – covers the second half of the class (plus major recurrent themes/concepts).

**Critical Thinking Assessments:** two written assignments designed to develop your engagement with critical thinking about various topics/issues covered in this course, and to improve your research and writing skills. Details on specific requirements will be posted in a separate PDF on Avenue to Learn and discussed in class.

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**Avenue to Learn:** Lectures will be given using Power Point, a PDF version of which will be posted on Avenue. You must be registered in the course to access the 1AB3E site. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue system** which can be accessed at: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/?logout=1>

**Lecture Capture/Podcasts:** will be posted on Avenue after each lecture. NOTE: films and guest lectures (depending upon copyright agreements) may NOT be posted. The podcast system is not 100% accurate, so please do not rely on podcasts only. It is best to attend class regularly. Podcasts are available for online streaming and individual student use only.

**Correspondence:** your instructor and TA's will check email regularly and reply within 48 hours (weekends may not apply); I will check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within put **1AB3E in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence. You *\*must\** use your McMaster email account when contacting us.

**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 behaviour** – 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**.

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Lecture	Readings
1	5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>No class – instructor at conference</b>	
2	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>What is Anthropology?</b> Introduction to the course? What do anthropologists do and why? Understanding cultural differences	See 'Week 2 details' on Avenue
3	19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Topic I – Race / Identity</b> Who are we? What is identity? How do different cultures think about themselves / others? What is race? Early anthropology: Darwin, colonialism & racism	See 'Week 3 details' on Avenue
4	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<b>Topic I – Race / Identity</b> White Privilege and Racism: Definitions and debates Class, gender and other forms of social hierarchy <i>Introduction to Critical Writing Assignment #1</i>	See 'Week 4 details' on Avenue
5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	<b>Topic I – Race / Identity</b> Biological/forensic anthropologists & race Archaeology and race Session on how to find peer-reviewed journal articles	See 'Week 5 details' on Avenue
6	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>Topic II – Religion</b> What is a worldview? What is religion? Shamanism and the 'origins' of religion / Palaeolithic cave art Witchcraft: An anthropological perspective <b>E-SUBMIT</b> Critical Writing Assignment #1 by 7pm	See 'Week 6 details' on Avenue
7	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b> short break <b>TOPIC II – Religion</b> Monsters, vampires & zombies: Why a belief in the undead? Religious syncretism: The Cargo Cults of Melanesia	See 'Week 7 details' on Avenue
8	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	<b>Mid-Term Recess (no classes)</b>	
9	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>TOPIC II – Religion</b> An archaeology of religion Spirituality/religion & the origins of agriculture <b>Film – Göbekli Tepe &amp; The Domestication of Wheat</b>	See 'Week 9 details' on Avenue
10	9 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>TOPIC III – Conflict</b> Introduction to violence and conflict Is conflict a product of the patriarchy? Archaeological views The nature & role of violence in small-scale societies	See 'Week 10 details' on Avenue
11	16 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>TOPIC III – Conflict</b> Violence and the nation-state Religious nationalism and conflict <i>Introduction to Critical Writing Assignment #2</i>	See 'Week 11 details' on Avenue

12	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	<b>TOPIC III – Conflict</b> Destruction of cultural heritage: Former Yugoslavia to ISIS Anthropology & the military: Should they collaborate? <i>Final exam review</i>	See 'Week 12 details' on Avenue
13	30 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> short break  Guest speaker - <i>TBA</i>	See 'Week 13 details' on Avenue
14	6 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>REVIEW CLASS &amp; submit final paper</b> What else do anthropologists study, and why do they matter? What can I do with a degree in anthropology?	See 'Week 14 details' on Avenue
15	11 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Submit CWA #2</b> E-submission (via Avenue) of CWA #2 by 4pm	

**NOTE THAT ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED:** We do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension on work missed. If the mid-term exam is missed a make-up exam has to be taken (in the form of an essay), if the final is missed, this is rescheduled by the Registrar for summer 2017.

### Late Assignments

Assignments must be handed to your instructor at the start of the class on the assigned date. Late assignments are penalized 10% of the mark per 24 hour period or part thereof with a maximum of 72 hours (3 days and 30%) after which a zero grade will be submitted. Extensions can only be gained if the student provides an appropriate note/letter from SAS, or other university certification system (e.g. MSAF – see below). **You CANNOT email your assignment, or slide it under any office door.** Any late submission needs to be placed in the Dept. of Anthropology drop box (5<sup>th</sup> floor CNH opposite elevators) which is checked at 4pm each business day. Assignments received after 4pm will be dated the following day.

### McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) policy

- The MSAF should be used for medical and non-medical (personal) situations.
- Approval of the MSAF is automatic (i.e. no documentation required)
- Rules governing the MSAF are as follows:
  - The timeframe within which the MSAF is valid has been reduced from 5 days to 3 days.
  - The upper limit for when an MSAF can be submitted has been reduced from 'less than 30%' to 'less than 25%' of the course weight.
  - The 'one MSAF per term' limit is retained.
  - As per the policy, an automated email will be sent to the course instructor, who will determine the appropriate relief. Students must immediately follow up with their instructors. Failure to do so may negate their relief.
- Policy: The MSAF policy can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar under General Academic Regulations > Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work or here: [http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests\\_for\\_Relief\\_for\\_Missed\\_Academic\\_Term\\_Work](http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work)

**Academic Skills Counselling** and **Services for Students with Disabilities** are available through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Tel: 905-525-9140 x28652

Email: [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca)

Website: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

### **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, <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

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.

The instructor & university reserve the right to modify elements of the Course during the term. The university may change the dates & deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice & communication with the students will be given with explanation & the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email & course websites weekly during the term & to note any changes.

**USE OF COMPUTERS:** Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

### **FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Effective January 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.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

\*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)