

ANTHROPOLOGY 1AB3 / RELIGIOUS STUDIES 1RO3
RACE, RELIGION, & CONFLICT
Winter 2020

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Class Times: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 3:30-4:20PM

Contents

Course Description.....	3
Format Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	4
Required Materials and Texts	4
Class Format.....	4
AODA Information.....	4
Course Evaluation – Overview.....	5
Course Evaluation – Details.....	5
Race, Religion, Conflict, & Research (20%), due Mar 19.....	5
Identity Reflection (20%), due Apr 2.....	5
Midterm Exam (30%), Feb 11-13.....	5
Final Exam (30%), in exam period.....	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	6
Week 1 (Jan 7-10).....	6
Week 2 (Jan 14-17).....	6
Week 3 (Jan 21-24).....	6
Week 4 (Jan 28-31).....	6
Week 5 (Feb 4-7).....	7
Week 6 (Feb 11-14).....	7
Week 7 (Feb 18-21).....	7
Week 8 (Feb 25-28).....	7
Week 9 (Mar 3-6).....	7
Week 10 (Mar 10-13).....	8
Week 11 (Mar 17-20).....	8
Week 12 (Mar 24-27).....	8
Week 13 (Mar 31 – Apr 3)	9

Course Policies	9
Submission of Assignments	9
Grades	9
Late Assignments	9
Absences, Missed Work, Illness	10
Correspondence.....	10
Avenue to Learn.....	10
Turnitin.com	10
Echo360.....	11
University Policies	11
Academic Integrity Statement.....	11
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities	11
Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO).....	12
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy.....	12
Privacy Protection.....	12
Course Modification.....	12

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.

Format Description

We will be using a “flipped-classroom” approach. The on-sentence explanation of this is that you will cover the core course material through recorded lectures, and in-class time will be spent actively engaging with the course concepts, mainly through the completion of in-class activities.

Most 50-minute in-class periods will consist of the following:

- ~10 minutes to review the content for the day, and *take questions from the class*
- ~30 minutes to introduce the *in-class activity* and to work on it in groups
- ~10 minutes of “*de-brief*” discussion of the activity

This will vary depending on the exact nature of the activity and questions that arise.

Rather than spending our entire time together delivering course content, we replace that time with active engagement with the material. This will require you to watch the lecture videos prior to class, complete some shorter readings, and come to class prepared. We are replacing a more dated approach where students “come to class to get the notes”, with a more modern approach where students “come to class to get a deeper understanding of the material”.

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 text is:

- Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion, and Conflict – McMaster 3rd Custom Edition, Nelson Education Ltd

Class Format

One 2-3-hour lecture recording watched weekly

Two 50-minute instructor-led sessions of interactive peer-to-peer learning

One 50-minute TA-led session of interactive peer-to-peer learning

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

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Race, Religion, Conflict, & Research [20%, due March 19]
2. Identity Reflection [20%, due April 2]
3. Midterm Exam [30%, week of Feb 11-13]
4. Final Exam [30%, in exam period]

Course Evaluation – Details

Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research (20%), due March 19

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 March 19 will be graded, but submissions made after March 19 will NOT be accepted.**

Identity Reflection (20%), due April 2

In the week of March 17, 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 March 12, you will be provided with specific questions to direct your thinking in this reflection. Your reflection will be 700-1000 words long, and **must be submitted online to the designated Avenue Dropbox by 11:59PM on April 2.**

Midterm Exam (30%), TBA - week of Feb 11-13

The midterm exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions, covering material from our Introduction and Religion sections. The exam will be scheduled outside of regular class time and will replace our scheduled in-class times that week.

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 (April 13-28).**

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Jan 7-10)

***Introduction to Anthropology* – Regular In-Class Lectures This Week**

Welcome to Anthropology 1AB3

What is anthropology?

TAs - Meet the TAs – Q&A

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.1-13

Notes:

Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research assignment begins

Week 2 (Jan 14-17)

***Critical Evaluation* – Video Lectures Start This Week**

Guest Speaker - Library Resources

Critical Evaluation – King article open read

TAs – Getting Started with the Research Tasks

Readings:

Rekdal Article

Week 3 (Jan 21-24)

***Religion & Ritual* - What is worldview? What is religion? How do anthropologists study religion?**

Debate Rules and Prep

Science & Religion Debate

TAs – Religious Belief Systems

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.97-108

Week 4 (Jan 28-31)

***Religion & Ritual* - How does ritual fit into our lives? How do we appeal to greater powers?**

Rites and Rituals Discussions

Taboos Discussion

TAs – Shared Open Read of Gmelch article

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.126-130

Week 5 (Feb 4-7)

***Religion & Ritual* - How do we resolve multiple religious influences?**

Religious syncretism, transition, & resistance

Split Horn Discussion

Religious Violence Debate

TAs - What else is playing a role in religious conflicts?

Readings:

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.118-123

Worsley Article

Week 6 (Feb 11-14)

Midterm Exam Review and Q&A on 11th

Midterm Exam - Time, Date (12/13), and Location TBA

Week 7 (Feb 18-21)

Midterm Recess - No classes

Week 8 (Feb 25-28)

***Power & Conflict* - How do we order society? How do we produce and maintain order?**

Ongka's Big Moka Discussion

Making Exchange Goods & Rules

TAs - Ranking & Trading Goods

Readings:

Gorski Article – for Week 10

Week 9 (Mar 3-6)

***Power & Conflict* - Where does power reside? How is power distributed?**

Trading Round 2 & Outcomes

Bourgois Discussion

TAs – Social Hierarchies

Readings:

Bourgois Article

Week 10 (Mar 10-13)

***Power & Conflict* - How is power resisted? How is violence rationalised and justified? What is the role of anthropology in international conflict?**

Stephen Pinker Discussion

Just War Debate

TAs – Trump & Naturalising Discourses

Readings:

Review Gorski Article

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.133-157

Notes:

Identity Reflection handout posted to Avenue on Mar 12

Week 11 (Mar 17-20)

***Race & Identity* - Who are we? What is identity? How do different cultures think about themselves & others?**

Identity & Cultural Appropriation Discussions - **bring your textbook**

We Are All Neighbours Discussion

TAs – Reflection Discussion

Readings:

Bringa Article

Identity Reflection Handout

Notes:

Identity Reflection assignment begins

Race, Religion, Conflict, and Research assignment ends

NO SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED AFTER 11:59PM ON MARCH 19

Week 12 (Mar 24-27)

***Race & Identity* - What is race? What is ethnicity? What is the role of privilege in racism?**

Trans-Race Debate

What is “Canadian Culture”?

TAs – Racism

Readings:

Research Rachel Dolezal

Week 13 (Mar 31 – Apr 3)

Race & Identity - What about the class, gender, and other social hierarchies? What do our identities mean in a digital world?

Intersectionality & Police at the Pride Parade debate

What Have We Learned This Term?

TAs - Final Exam Review

Readings:

Research Police in/at Pride Parades

1AB3 Custom Text – pp.76-96

Notes:

Identity Reflection due by 11:59PM on April 2

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. The Identity Reflection must be submitted online to the designated Avenue Dropbox.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
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

All of the lecture videos will be accessible on Echo360 through the link on Avenue. Several of our in-class sessions will also be recorded and uploaded to Echo360 within about 24 hours of the lecture.

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.

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.

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. 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.