

## INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY: RACE, RELIGION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE Fall 2022

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**Lectures:** Tues 10:30-11:20am; Thurs 9:30-10:20am in CNH 104

### Contents

Course Description .....	1
Course Objectives .....	2
Class Format .....	2
Teaching Assistants .....	2
Required Materials .....	2
Course Evaluation .....	2
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings.....	2
Course Policies .....	6
Assignment Submission.....	6
Late Assignments .....	6
Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments .....	7
Grades .....	7
MSAF (McMaster Student Absence Form) .....	7
Correspondence .....	7
Avenue to Learn.....	7
Turnitin.com .....	8
University Policies .....	8
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy.....	8
<b>Privacy Protection</b> .....	8
Course Modification .....	8
Approved Advisory Statements.....	10

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students to Anthropology and its sub-disciplines through a discussion of some of the big questions and issues that anthropologists investigate in contemporary and past societies. These include issues of religion and worldview, race and racism, power and inequality, and social justice from archaeological, biological, and sociocultural perspectives. Through this course you will develop an understanding of how anthropological approaches can be used to better understand humanity, past and present.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students 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; and
- Enhance their comparative, analytic, and critical thinking skills through reading and written assignments.

### **Class Format:**

This class includes both in-person and virtual components. The hour-long lectures are held in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The course schedule also includes a weekly virtual component (a film or podcast) to be completed at the student's convenience.

### **Teaching Assistants:**

Every student is assigned a TA based on the alphabetical order of their last name. Your TA will be grading your assignments and will hold office hours each week. See your TA during their office hours if you have any questions or concerns about the assignments or grading. Your TA's name, office hour, and email will be posted to Avenue during the second week of class.

### **Required Materials:**

1. Custom textbook: *Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion, and Social Justice* (Oxford UP, 2022), available at the campus bookstore.
2. Leanne Bestasamosake Simpson, *A Short History of the Blockade* (University of Alberta Press, 2021), available at the campus bookstore.
3. Additional material posted on Avenue, including short articles, videos, podcasts, and films.

### **Course Evaluation:**

This course has two assignments and two exams. Each of these four components is worth 25% of your final grade:

1. Assignment #1: due October 6 by 11 p.m.
2. Midterm exam: held on October 25, covering the first half of course material.
3. Assignment #2: due December 1 by 11 p.m.
4. Final exam: held during the exam period, covering the second half of course material.

More details about the two essay-based assignments (approximately 1500 words each) will be provided closer to the due date. The midterm and final exams will be one hour long, completed on Avenue within a set 24-hour period, and consist of multiple choice questions. Each exam will cover half of the course material, including readings, lectures, videos, and films.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

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**Note: all readings are available on Avenue unless marked otherwise**

### **UNIT ONE: What Is Anthropology?**

#### **Week 1 (September 6 & 8): Syllabus Discussion and Introduction**

*Lecture 1:* Course introduction

*Material:* course syllabus

- "Doing Anthropology" (8:14) <https://shass.mit.edu/multimedia/video-2008-doing-anthropology>

*Lecture 2: Mapping Anthropology*

*Material:* "What Is Anthropology?" (textbook)

*Virtual component:*

- *Film:* Margaret Slaughter (dir.), *Talking Canadian* (2004, 43min)

**Week 2 (September 13, 15): The Culture Concept**

*Lecture 1: Introducing the Culture Concept*

*Material:*

- "Why Is the Concept of Culture Important?" (textbook)
- Horace Minor, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"
- *Film:* "Framing the Other" (19min)

*Lecture 2: Thick Description*

*Material:* Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," in *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), pp. 3-30 (*excerpts*)

*Virtual component:*

- *Podcast:* Aisha J.M. Sultan, "When Fieldwork Breaks Your Heart," *AnthroPod*, February 14, 2019, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/when-fieldwork-breaks-your-heart> (39min)

**Week 3 (September 20, 22): Ethnographic Distance and Ethics**

**\*\*office hours this week on Tuesday at 11:30am in CNH 530**

*Lecture 1: Ethnographic Distance*

*Material:* Kirin Narayan, "How Native is a 'Native' Anthropologist?" *American Anthropologist* 95, no. 3 (September 1993): 671-686

*Lecture 2: Anthropological Ethics (\*\*prerecorded lecture, link on A2L; no in-person class)*

*Material:* Philippe Bourgois, "Confronting Anthropological Ethics: Ethnographic Lessons from Central America," *Journal of Peace Research* 27, no. 1 (1990): 43-54

*Virtual component:*

- *Film:* Jean Rouch and Edgar Morin (dirs.), *Chronique d'un été* (1961, 1h 30min)

**UNIT TWO: Race and Racism**

**Week 4 (September 27, 29): The Human, the Social**

*Lecture 1: Social Organization*

*Material:* "What Can Anthropology Tell Us About Social Groups and Inequality?" (textbook)

*Lecture 2: Race and Biology guest lecture by Ravneet Sidhu*

*Material:* Race in Biological Anthropology video (4:15), Dartmouth Ethnography Lab, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WMRy4QqTuc&feature=youtu.be>

*Virtual component:*

- *Film*: Jean Cheng et al. (dirs.), *Race: The Power of an Illusion. Part 2: The Story We Tell* (2003, 57min)
- Scientific Racism podcast, <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/anthrobites-scientific-racism>

### **Week 5 (October 4, 6):**

#### Lecture 1: *Orientalism*

##### *Material:*

- Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage, 1978), pp. 1-12 (excerpts)
- Film clips from "Edward Said On Orientalism" (1998)

#### Lecture 2: *Natural and Social Types*

##### *Material:*

- W.E.B. DuBois, "The Concept of Race," in *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept* (1984 [1940]), pp. 49-67 (excerpts)
- Franz Boas, "Race and Progress," *Science* 74, no. 1905 (July 3, 1931): 1-8

##### *Virtual component:*

- *The Shackles of Tradition: Franz Boas* (1985, 52 min) (link on Avenue)

**\*\* Assignment #1 due October 6**

### **Week 6 (October 11, 13): Mid-term recess, no class**

### **Week 7 (October 18, 20): Racial Hegemony**

#### Lecture 1: *Living in the White World*

*Material*: Lalaie Ameeriar, "The Sanitized Sensorium," *American Anthropologist* 114, no. 3 (2012): 509-522

#### Lecture 2: *Living in the White World*

- Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," *Peace and Freedom* (July/August 1989): 10-12
- Saidiya Hartman, "The End of White Supremacy, An American Romance," *Bomb Magazine*, June 5, 2020, <https://bombmagazine.org/articles/the-end-of-white-supremacy-an-american-romance/>

##### *Virtual component*

- *Film*: Raoul Peck (dir.), *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016, 1hr 33min) (on Kanopy)

### **Week 8 (October 25, 27):**

#### Lecture 1: *Midterm exam (no in-person class)*

- Exam on Oct 25 (50 multiple choice questions, one hour long, to be completed online during our regular class time)

#### Lecture 2: Library Resources

*Material*: Librarian visit

##### *Virtual component:*

- *Film*: Denis Villeneuve (dir.), *Arrival* (2016, 2h); and companion piece, David Sutton, "Arrival: Anthropology in Hollywood," *Anthropology Today* 34, no. 1 (February 2018): 7-10

### **UNIT THREE: Religion**

#### **Week 9 (November 1, 3): The Forms of Life**

*Lecture 1*: Between Belief and Practice

*Material*: "How Do We Make Meaning?" (pp. 378-407) (textbook)

*Lecture 2*: Ritual Practice

*Material*: Victor Turner, "Liminality and Communitas," in *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure* (Chicago: Aldine Publishing, 1969), pp. 94-113, 125-130 (*excerpts*)

Virtual component:

- Jean Rouch (dir.), *Les Maîtres Fous* (1955, 28min)

#### **Week 10 (November 8, 10): What Is Real**

*Lecture 1*: Witchcraft and Rationality

*Material*: E.E. Evans-Pritchard, *Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic among the Azande* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976), pp. 18-32 (*excerpts*)

*Lecture 2*: Anthropological Reason

*Material*: Katherine Ewing, "Dreams from a Saint: Anthropological Atheism and the Temptation to Believe," *American Anthropologist* 96, no. 3 (September 1994): 571-583

Virtual component:

- *Film*: *Strange Beliefs: Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard* (1985, 52 min) (link on Avenue)

#### **Week 11 (November 15, 17): Secularism and Religion**

*Lecture 1*: Secular Politics of Religion

*Material*: Lila Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others," *American Anthropologist* 104, no. 3 (September 2002): 783-790

*Lecture 2*: Guest Lecture by Ariane Bedard-Provencher on religious and secular feminisms

*Material*:

- *Film*: Zahra Molloo (dir.), *Home No More* (2018, 19min)

Virtual component:

- *Film*: Julia Meltzer and Laura Nix (dirs.), *The Light in Her Eyes* (2012, 60min)

### **UNIT FOUR: Social Justice**

#### **Week 12 (November 22, 24): Structural Violence**

*Lecture 1*: Political Anthropology (\*\*pre-recorded lecture, link on A2L. no in-person class)

*Material*: "How Do Anthropologists Study Political Relations?" (pp. 295-324) (textbook)

*Lecture 2*: Visible and Invisible Power

*Material:*

- Paul Farmer, "An Anthropology of Structural Violence," *Current Anthropology* 45, no. 3 (June 2004): 305-317
- Ursula K. LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" (1973)

Virtual component:

*Film:* Stephanie Black (dir.), *Life and Debt* (2001, 1h 26min)

**Week 13 (November 29, December 1): Settler Canada**

*Lecture 1:* Resistance and Regeneration

*Material:* Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *A Short History of the Blockade: Giant Beavers, Diplomacy, and Regeneration in Nishnaabewin* (University of Alberta Press, 2021)

*Lecture 2:* Simpson, *A Short History of the Blockade*, part 2 and beginning of film

*Virtual component:*

- *Film:* Alanis Obomasawin (dir.), *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance* (1993, 2h)

\* *Assignment #2 due December 1*

**Week 14 (December 6, 8): Justice**

*Lecture 1:* Guest Lecture by Scott Morrison on Archeology and (Indigenous) Collections

*Material:* none

*Lecture 2:* Displacement and Refuge

*Material:* Miriam Ticktin, "Thinking Beyond Humanitarian Borders," *Social Research: An International Quarterly* 83, no. 2 (Summer 2016): 255-271

Virtual component:

- *Film:* Amar Chebib (dir.), *Wajd: Songs of Separation* (Luminus Films, 2018, 1hr 27min)

\* *Final exam held during exam period*

**Course Policies**

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**Assignment Submission**

All assignments must be submitted on Avenue (assignments submitted over email will *not* be accepted). No extensions will be given unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided.

**Late Assignments**

All unexcused late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per 24-hour period or part thereof.

### **Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments**

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 me during my office hours. If you would like me to reappraise your work, then please submit the original paper with a maximum 300-word explanation of why you think you deserve a higher mark. This must be done within seven calendar days of the release of your grade on Avenue. Although I will review your grade, it may stay the same or even go down. Please note that marks are not awarded for effort (unfortunately!) but for the quality of the final product (achievement). All deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format (no multiple choice).

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
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

### **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. Note that all work must be completed: because each type of assessment in this course is worth 25%, you cannot use an MSAF. In the event of illness, you would have to request (with documentation) a faculty-issued MSAF exception. If granted, note that we do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension of 48 hours (from receipt of MSAF) on work missed.

### **Correspondence**

You can expect an email response within 48 hours (excluding weekends). Please put 1AB3 in the subject line of your email and include your name and student number at the end of all correspondence.

### **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, usernames 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.

### **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](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **University Policies**

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#### **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.

## ADVISORY STATEMENTS

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.** 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 behaviour 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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION**

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

### **COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT**

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, usernames 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

### **ONLINE PROCTORING**

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

### **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**. It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): 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”: <https://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=44&navoid=9020#requests-for-relief-for-missed-academic-term-work>

### **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 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.

### **COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and

copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors. The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

### **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.