

ANTHROPOLOGY 1AB3: RACE, RELIGION AND CONFLICT

Winter 2021

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Lecture: Asynchronous lectures posted to A2L weekly; tutorials on dates listed below

Office: Virtual office
Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30-10:30 via Zoom or MS Teams (email to make an appointment)

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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.

Due to the delayed start of classes provided by the University, some details and deadlines regarding course content and assessments in the published course outline may be changed. Please check Avenue to Learn for the most up-to-date information for this course. The course outline on Avenue to Learn will supersede previously published outlines until published course outlines are updated.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- 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 Materials and Texts

A digital copy of the textbook can be purchased online through VitalSource:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/introduction-to-anthropology-race-religion-and-v9780199017287>

It is also available on Red Shelf:

<https://redshelf.com/book/1639704/introduction-to-anthropology-race-religion-and-context-1639704-9780199017287>

Hard copies are also available in the McMaster bookstore, but keep in mind that shipping can be slow.

Also – this text is new, effective Fall 2020. If you are using a hard copy, please ensure that you are not using a copy that pre-dates Fall 2020 as the content is not the same.

Class Format

1. **Asynchronous lectures** posted weekly to Avenue to Learn. Tutorials held on dates listed below on the syllabus.
2. **Tutorials** – Synchronous tutorials are held roughly biweekly (see dates below). You must attend the tutorial on the date/time that you signed up for on Mosaic.

Who is my TA? TA names/office hours/contact information will be posted on Avenue. Please ask your TA any questions about assignments/grading of assignments. Zoom links for tutorials will be posted to A2L.

3. **Live Question and Answer sessions:** In addition to posted lectures and synchronous tutorials, Dr. McGarry will host OPTIONAL live question and answer sessions via Zoom on the dates/times posted below. Zoom links on A2L.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Assignment 1, 25%, due March 3
2. Assignment 2, 25%, due April 14
3. Test #1, 25%, February 24
4. Test #2, 25%, April 7

Course Evaluation – Details

Assignment 1 (25%), due March 3

Assignment 1 is a 1200-1400 word essay with a choice of essay questions. Please upload to A2L by 11 p.m. March 3 as a PDF. More details will be provided well in advance of the due date.

Assignment 2 (25%), due April 14

Assignment 2 is a 1200-1400 word essay with a choice of essay questions. Please upload to A2L by 11 p.m. April 14 as a PDF. More details will be provided well in advance of the due date.

Test #1 (25%), February 24

Test #1 consists of 50 multiple choice questions. It covers all course material (lectures, readings, assigned films/podcasts, film clips shown in lecture, etc. up to the midterm test date. We are not using *Respondus* (cheating detection software). You will have one hour to write the test, and test availability times are TBD. You will receive more information about the test well in advance of the test date.

Test #2 (25%), April 7

Test #2 consists of 50 multiple choice questions. It covers all course material (lectures, readings, assigned films/podcasts, film clips shown in lecture, etc. from the midterm test date onwards. We are not using *Respondus* (cheating detection software). You will have one hour to write the test, and test availability times are TBD. You will receive more information about the test well in advance of the test date.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Week of Jan. 11)

January 13: Introduction to the course

Readings: Please read the course syllabus carefully.

Notes: There are NO tutorials this week. On A2L, I will post a brief lecture that will consist of an overview of the syllabus and course expectations.

Week 2 (Week of Jan. 18)

January 20 – What is Anthropology? What is culture?

Readings: Text, pages 1-20 and 24-40

Notes: Tutorial #1 this week. Please attend the tutorial on the day/time that you have signed up for on Mosaic. Zoom links on A2L.

Week 3 (Week of Jan. 25)

January 27 – Methods and Representation

Readings: Text, pages 46-50, and Horace Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” (pages 228-230)

Notes: Watch this short video, “Doing Anthropology:” <https://shass.mit.edu/multimedia/video-2008-doing-anthropology>

No tutorials this week.

Live Q&A (Optional) with Dr. McGarry on Wednesday Jan. 27 at 2:30 p.m.

Week 4 (Week of Feb. 1)

February 3 – Race and Racism

Readings: “Race, Ethnicity and Class: Understanding Identity and Social Inequality” (pages 71-93 and 138-141)

AnthroBites podcast and transcript on “Scientific Racism”
<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/anthrobites-scientific-racism>

Notes: Tutorial #2. Please attend the tutorial on the day/time that you signed up for on Mosaic. Zoom links on A2L.

Week 5 (Week of Feb. 8)

February 10 – Embedded racism and Whiteness

Readings, McIntosh, Peggy, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack:”

https://psychology.umbc.edu/files/2016/10/White-Privilege_McIntosh-1989.pdf

Text, Shankar, Shalini, “Speaking Like a Model Minority” (pages 116-125), and Low, Setha, “Maintaining Whiteness” (pages 147-154)

Notes: No tutorials this week.

Live Q&A Session (Optional) with Dr. McGarry this week on Wednesday February 10, 2:30.

Week 6 (Week of Feb. 15)

Reading Week. No lectures, tutorials or assigned readings

Week 7 (Week of Feb. 22)

Feb. 24 – Wednesday February 24 is TEST #1. More info regarding availability and content will be provided in advance of the test.

Notes: There are no lectures, assigned readings, or tutorials this week.

Week 8 (Week of March 1)

March 3 – Worldview and Religion

Readings: Text, pages 210-217 (stop reading when you hit the section called, “4.4 Magic and Witchcraft”), pages 220 (starting with section 4.6) to 224

Notes: Tutorial #3 this week

****** Assignment #1 is due by 11 p.m. Wednesday March 3 to A2L.** Please submit as a PDF.

Week 9 (Week of March 8)

March 10 – Witchcraft and Magic

Readings: Text, pages 417-419, and E. E. Evans-Pritchard, “Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events” (posted to A2L)

Textbook, Gmelch, George, “Baseball Magic” (231-237)

Notes: No tutorials this week.

Live Q&A (Optional) this week with Dr. McGarry on Wednesday March 10 at 2:30 pm

Week 10 (Week of March 15)

March 17 – Cultural Appropriation and Religion

Reading: George Nicholas, “Confronting the Specter of Cultural Appropriation”:

<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/cultural-appropriation-halloween/>

Notes: Tutorial #4 this week

Watch this video, “White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men:”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19JAMhAzXms>

Week 11 (Week of March 22)

March 24 – Conflict

Readings: Text, Chapter 10, Political Anthropology

Richard Lee Borshay, “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari” (text, pages 46-50)

Notes: No tutorials this week.

Week 12 (Week of March 29)

Date – Structural Violence

Readings: Text, pages 295-302, Paul Farmer, “An Anthropology of Structural Violence”

Bourgois, Philippe (posted on A2L)

Notes: Tutorial #5 this week.

Live Q&A (Optional) this week with Dr. McGarry on Wed. March 29 at 2:30.

Week 13 (Week of April 5)

April 7 – Test #2. This test is multiple choice; more information will be provided well in advance of the test date.

Notes: There are no assigned readings, lectures or tutorials for this week.

Week 14 (Week of April 12)

******April 14 – Assignment #2 is due to A2L by 11 p.m. on April 14.** Please upload your assignment as a PDF.

Notes: No tutorials, lectures or assigned readings for this week.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments must be submitted to the A2L drop box (under “Assignments” on A2L) as a PDF by the due date/time listed on the syllabus. We do not accept assignments via email.

Deferred or makeup tests

All deferred or makeup tests are essay-based – no multiple choice.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+

MARK	GRADE
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

10% off per day late, or part thereof, unless an extension has been granted.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Because all course work is worth 25% or more, you cannot use an MSAF for any missed work. Please get in touch with Dr. McGarry to discuss illness, absences and missed work.

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.

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

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.

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, 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 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 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”.

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.