

ANTHROPOLOGY 1AB3: RACE, RELIGION AND CONFLICT

Winter 2022

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104

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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, sociocultural 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

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

Note: on the front cover of the digital versions of the textbook, the title reads as “Context” instead of “Conflict.” Rest assured that this is the correct text (I keep trying to get them to correct it but they never do)!

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

Weekly in-person lectures/discussion. While you are assigned a TA, we do not have tutorials for this course. Your TA is the person that grades your work, hold office hours if you have questions about assignments, etc. I will post a list of TA assignments and their contact information on A2L at the end of the first week of class.

Re: recordings of classes. Classes will be recorded and posted to A2L via Echo 360. Note that since these are live recordings that are hosted and processed by CCT (not the professor), I do not have any control over volume, quality of recording, etc. There may be audio issues or muffling of my voice due

to masks, etc. that I cannot fix or control. As such, it is your responsibility to come to class and take notes. About 5-7% of recordings have issues with audio, imagery, or other phenomena. Rely exclusively on recordings at your own risk.

Powerpoints are posted as PDF's.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Assignment 1, 25%, due March 4
2. Assignment 2, 25%, due April 11
3. Test #1, 25%, February 14
4. Test #2, 25%, April 4

Course Evaluation – Details

Assignment 1 (25%), due March 4

Assignment 1 is a 1200-1400 word essay with a choice of essay questions. Please upload to A2L by 11 p.m. March 4 as a PDF or Word document. More details will be provided well in advance of the due date.

Assignment 2 (25%), due April 11

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 14

Test #1 is online (stay home today – no lecture!) and 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 4

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 (January 10)

Topic: Introduction to the course/What is Anthropology?

Readings: Please read the course syllabus carefully.

Week 2 (January 17)

Topic – What is Anthropology? What is culture? How do anthropologists do their research?

Readings: Text, pages 1-20 and 24-36 (stop when you hit the section, “Cultural Imperialism...”), pages 46-50 and Horace Miner, “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema” (pages 228-230)

Week 3 (January 24)

Topic – Race and Racism

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

Also read: <https://www.fieldmuseum.org/blog/anthropologists-racism-and-history-inequality>

AnthroBites podcast and transcript on “Scientific Racism”

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/anthrobites-scientific-racism>

Notes: We will have a **guest lecturer** for the first part of class today. **Topic: Genetics and Race: Why is race a cultural construct and not a biological reality?**

Week 4 (January 31)

Topic – 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

Anthropology and Anti-racism: <http://www.anthropology.pitt.edu/anthropology-and-anti-racism>

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

Week 5 (February 7)

Topic – 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

Week 6 (February 14)

February 14 - Test #1

Notes: Test #1 consists of 50 multiple choice questions and it covers all course material covered/assigned up until and INCLUDING last week (Feb 7). It will be open online for a 12-hour period. This test is held online. I am **not** using Respondus and you will not be able to backtrack. More information will be provided well in advance of the test date. **THERE IS NO IN-PERSON lecture today. Stay home/study/write the test ☺**

Week 7 (Week of Feb. 21)

Reading Week – no classes or assigned work.

Week 8 (February 28)

Topic – Witchcraft and Magic

Readings: Text, pages 217-219, and E. E. Evans-Pritchard, “Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events” (posted to A2L)

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

******Assignment #1 is due by 11 p.m. Friday March 4 to A2L.** Please submit as a PDF or Word document.

Week 9 (March 7)

Topic – Millenarian Movements

Reading: <https://www.anthroencyclopedia.com/entry/cargo-cults>

Week 10 (March 14)

Topic – Cultural Appropriation, Race and Religion

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

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

<https://projecthumanities.asu.edu/content/cultural-appropriation-general>

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

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

Week 11 (March 21)

Topic – Conflict

Readings: Text, Chapter 10, Political Anthropology

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

Week 12 (March 28)

Topic – Structural Violence

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

Bourgois, Philippe (posted on A2L)

Note : We have a guest lecturer for the first part of class today – Kyle Morrison, PhD candidate in Anthropology, McMaster

Week 13 (April 4)

April 4 – Test #2. This test consists of 50 multiple choice questions and is held ONLINE. I am not using Respondus and you will not be able to backtrack; more information will be provided well in advance of the test date. No lecture/class today so stay home this week!

Week 14 (Week of April 11)

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

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.

Assignment Reappraisal

Your assignments are marked by TA’s using the grading rubric that is on the assignment sheet. Grades are not awarded based on effort, but on demonstrated achievement. It is normal for assignment grades in university classes to be somewhat lower than high school grades.

If you disagree with a grade on an assignment, take the following steps:

- 1) Wait 24 hours after viewing your assignment. Re-read the rubric and expectations thoroughly and reflect on where you went wrong.
- 2) Seek additional feedback. Contact your grading TA (not Dr. McGarry) to ask for further feedback
- 3) Formally request a re-appraisal via email to Dr. McGarry. Write a 300-word (max) statement explaining why you believe the grader’s assessment was mistaken and submit it to Dr. McGarry along with the original assignment (with TA feedback). Your statement must directly reference the rubric.
- 4) Dr. McGarry will re-assess your work using the same rubric as the TA grader.

Please note that requesting a re-appraisal does not guarantee that your mark will go up. Most re-appraisals do not produce a different mark than the original assessment, and some produce a lower mark.

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+ |
| 85-90 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |

| MARK | GRADE |
|-------------|--------------|
| 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

I do not take off marks if you submit your assignment within 24 hours of the due date. After 24 hours, 10% is deducted from each 24 hour period later or part thereof, including weekends. So, for example, if an assignment is submitted 27 hours late, then 10% is deducted.

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. NOTE: We do not re-weigh tests or assignments. All course work must be completed. Any deferred or makeup tests are essay-based.

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.