

ANTHROP 1AB3
INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY: RACE, RELIGION, AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE
Winter 2023

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Lecture: Blended (In-person class: TSH
120; Tuesday 5:30-6:20 PM)

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(Link is available on A2L)

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Course Description

Anthropology pioneered comparative approaches that explain how cultural texts, social norms, and historical reconfigurations shape human behavior and beliefs. **Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion, and Social Justice** informs students about the diverse ways people celebrate their culture, identify themselves, participate in a community, and develop social ties. This course is not an exhibition of distant, primitive, and exotic ways of being in the world; instead, it inspires students to explore why it is problematic to label other cultural practices as exotic, backward, and inferior. It searches for the shared values that unite humans and make them resilient despite the diversity in cultures and societies. Based on academic literature and ethnographic storytelling, the course will introduce anthropology's primary interests to students: culture and cultural relativism, racism, identity politics, religion, structural violence, and settler-colonialism. These issues are examined through archaeological, biological, and sociocultural perspectives.

Course Objectives

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

- Develop an understanding of anthropological theories, methods, and practices.
- Discover the diversity of research in the sub-disciplines of anthropology related to specific themes.
- Understand the significance of ethnography in comprehending human and cultural diversity.
- Analyze the underlying causes of structural inequality and social hierarchy.
- Develop an understanding of the shared struggle of fellow humans for identity, equality, and justice.
- Reflect on their cultural biases and apply anthropological sensibilities in understanding and appreciating cultural differences.
- Improve their skills in developing research arguments, analyzing theoretical perspectives, and organizing research evidence in written assignments.

Required Materials and Texts

1. Custom textbook: *Introduction to Anthropology: Race, Religion, and Social Justice* (Oxford UP, 2022), available at the campus bookstore. E-book is available on Red Shelf: <https://redshelf.com/app/ecom/book/2158593/introduction-to-anthropology-mcmaster-university-custom-edition-2158593-9780190168889-various>
2. All other course materials are available in Avenue to Learn's eReserves folder.

Class Format

This course includes both in-person and virtual components:

1. **Tuesday (in-person):** An in-person lecture will be held on Tuesdays (5:30-6:20 PM) at TSH 120. Please note that this lecture will not be recorded. Attendance is mandatory.
2. **Thursday (online lecture):** A recorded lecture will be posted to Avenue to Learn every Thursday at 5:30PM. Students are expected to complete the lecture and associated short activities (e.g., polls, surveys, forums) during class time (5:30-6:20). There will be no in-person classes on Thursdays.

3. **Asynchronous component:** The course schedule also includes a weekly virtual component (e.g., documentary, film, or podcast) to be completed at the student's convenience. Students are encouraged to complete this component within the designated week to understand the weekly theme and readings better.

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.

Course Evaluation – Overview

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

1. Assignment #1: due February 09 by 11 PM
2. Assignment #2: due April 11 by 11 PM
3. Mid-term exam: March 02
4. Final exam: April 04

Course Evaluation – Details

Assignments

More details about the two essay-based assignments (approximately 1500 words each) will be provided closer to the due date.

Exams

The mid-term and final exams will be one hour long, completed on Avenue within a set 24-hour period, and consist of multiple-choice questions. The exams will cover all course materials, including readings, lectures, videos, podcasts, and films. The mid-term includes course materials from week 1 to 6, and the final exam will cover week 9-12. More details about the exams will be provided closer to the due date.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

PART I: ANTHROPOLOGY

Week 1 (Jan 9-15): Introduction to the Course

Lecture 1: Jan 10 (In-person)

Course Outline

Lecture 2: Jan 12 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Textbook Chapter 1: "What Is Anthropology?" (pp. 5-26)

Asynchronous Component

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

Week 2 (Jan 16-22): The Concept of Culture

Lecture 1: Jan 17 (In-person)

Textbook Chapter 2: "Why Is the Concept of Culture Important?" (pp. 27-46)

Lecture 2: Jan 19 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Abu-Lughod, L. (2002). Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others. *American Anthropologist*, 104(3), 783–790.

Andrea Malaya M. Ragragio & Myfel D. Paluga, *What Netflix Got Wrong About Indigenous Storytelling*. Sapiens, December 1, 2021. (<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/busaw-trese/>)

Asynchronous Component

The Couple in the Cage

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv26tDDsuA8&ab_channel=lv%C3%A1nEusebioAguirreDaranou)

Week 3 (Jan 23-30): Ethnography & Fieldwork

Lecture 1: Jan 24 (In-person)

Monaghan, J., & Just, P. (2000). A Dispute in Donggo: Fieldwork and Ethnography (Chapter 1). In *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction* (pp. 13-33). New York: Oxford University Press.

Lecture 2: Jan 26 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Miner, H. (1956). Body Ritual Among the Nacirema. *American Anthropologist*, 58(3):503-507.

Esther Landhuis, *Why Don't More Humans Eat Bugs?* Sapiens, November 30, 2018.

(<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/eat-bugs/>)

Asynchronous Component

AnthroPod, *Fieldwork and Morality* (<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/fieldwork-and-morality>)

PART II: RACE

Week 4 (Jan 30-Feb 5): Race & Racism

Lecture 1: Jan 31 (In-person)

Ravneet Sidhu's guest lecture, *Race & Genetics*

Alan Goodman, *Race Is Real, But It's Not Genetic*. Sapiens, March 13, 2020.

(<https://www.sapiens.org/biology/is-race-real/>)

Lecture 2: Feb 2 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Textbook Chapter 3: "What Can Anthropology Tell Us About Social Groups and Inequality?" (pp. 47-72)

Asynchronous Component

AnthroPod, *Scientific Racism* (<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/anthrobites-scientific-racism>)

Week 5 (Feb 6-12): White Supremacy

Lecture 1: Feb 7 (In-person)

Razack, S. H. (2020). Settler Colonialism, Policing and Racial Terror: The Police Shooting of Loreal Tsingine. *Feminist Legal Studies*, 28(1), 1–20.

Lecture 2: Feb 9 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Bjork-James, S. (2020). White Sexual Politics: The Patriarchal Family in White Nationalism and the Religious Right. *Transforming Anthropology*, 28(1), 58–73.

Asynchronous Component

Angela Davis, *Freedom Struggle in 2020: Angela Davis on Protests, Defunding Police and Toppling Statues*

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX8pl9SDmQY&t=627s&ab_channel=DemocracyNow%21)

Amy Goodman, *Canada's Indigenous & Black Lives Matter Activists Unite to Protest Violence & Neglect* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USBizevnnvGU&ab_channel=DemocracyNow%21)

Assignment #1 is due on February 09 by 11 PM

Week 6 (Feb 13-19): Racial Hegemony & Violence

Lecture 1: Feb 14 (In-person)

Blakey, M. L. (1998). The New York African Burial Ground Project: An Examination of Enslaved Lives, A Construction of Ancestral Ties. *Transforming Anthropology*, 7(1), 53–58.

Carolyn Wilke, *The Resistance and Ingenuity of the Cooks Who Lived in Slavery*. *Sapiens*, August 26, 2021. (<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/enslaved-people-foodways/>)

Lecture 2: Feb 16 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Montgomery, L. M., & Supernant, K. (2022). Archaeology in 2021: Repatriation, Reclamation, and Reckoning with Historical Trauma. *American Anthropologist*, 124(4), 800–812.

Asynchronous Component

Sylvia McAdam, *Idle No More* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mde_mbNe8Rg)

Week 7 (Feb 20-26): Mid-term Recess

No lectures or assigned readings

Week 8 (Feb 27-Mar 5): Mid-term Exam

Date: Feb 28

No class

Date: Mar 2

Mid-term Exam

PART III: RELIGION

Week 9 (Mar 6-12): The Construction of Reality

Lecture 1: Mar 7 (In-person)

Textbook Chapter 4: "How Do We Make Meaning?" (pp. 73-102)

Lecture 2: Mar 9 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Evans-Pritchard, E. E. (1976). The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events (Chapter 2). In *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande* (pp. 18-32). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Asynchronous Components

Dimitris Xygalatas, *The Power of Ritual*

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrljCLvSQ_cw&ab_channel=TEDxTalks)

Hugh Gusterson, *COVID-19 and the Turn to Magical Thinking*. Sapiens, May 12, 2020.

(<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/covid-19-magic/>)

Week 10 (Mar 13-19): Religion & Identity Politics

Lecture 1: Mar 14 (In-person)

Berman, M. (2018). Religion Overcoming Religions: Suffering, Secularism, and the Training of Interfaith Chaplains in Japan. *American Ethnologist*, 45(2), 228–240.

Lecture 2: Mar 16 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Mahmood, S. (2012). Sectarian Conflict and Family Law in Contemporary Egypt. *American Ethnologist*, 39(1), 54–62.

Asynchronous Component

Sapiens Podcast, *Being Afghan in America: In the Field With Morwari Zafar*

(<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/afghan-american/>)

PART IV: SOCIAL JUSTICE

Week 11 (Mar 20-26): Structural Violence

Lecture 1: Mar 21 (In-person)

Textbook Chapter 5: "How Do Anthropologists Study Political Relations?" (pp. 104-133)

Lecture 2: Mar 23 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Farmer, P. (2004). An Anthropology of Structural Violence. *Current Anthropology*, 45(3), 305–325.

Asynchronous Component

John Pilger, *Stealing a Nation*

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17OPvurq97l&ab_channel=Conspira%C3%A7%C3%A3oT%C3%B3rica)

Week 12 (Mar 27-Apr 2): Settler-Colonialism

Lecture 1: Mar 28 (In-person)

Dr. Scott Martin's guest lecture, *A Brief Introduction to Sustainable Archaeology McMaster and Ontario Archaeology*

McMaster University, Department of Anthropology, ANTHROP 1AB3
C. D. Green, *A Major Museum's Attempt to Center Native American Voices*. Sapiens, December 8, 2022. (<https://www.sapiens.org/culture/field-museum-native-voices/>)

Lecture 2: Mar 30 (Recorded Lecture on A2L)

Denov, M., & Campbell, K. (2002). Casualties of Aboriginal Displacement in Canada: Children at Risk among the Innu of Labrador. *Refuge*, 20(2), 21–33.

Asynchronous Component

Rocks at Whiskey Trench

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3cYG2vORYc&t=6s&ab_channel=NFB)

Week 13 (Apr 3-9): Final Exam

Date: Apr 4

Final Exam

Date: Apr 6

No class/lecture. Please utilize the time to finish Assignment #2.

Week 14 (Apr 10-12): Final Assignment

Date: Apr 11

No class. *Assignment #2 is due on April 11 by 11 PM*

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments must be submitted on Avenue. Assignments submitted over email will not be accepted. It is also important that you always retain a copy of your assignments. No extensions will be given unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided.

Deferred or makeup tests

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

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.

Email and Communication

I will facilitate virtual office hours on Fridays, 1-2 PM. However, feel free to email me any time on the weekdays. I will respond 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. Please note that I will be offline during weekends. You are requested to use McMaster email ID in all academic correspondence.

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

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

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. 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-weight grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension of 48 hours (from receipt of MSAF) on work missed.

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.

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, 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 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.