

# ANTHROP 1AA3: SEX, FOOD AND DEATH

Winter 2023

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**Lecture:** Mon. and Fri. 11:30-12:20 in  
PGCLL B138

**Office:** CNH 531 or via Zoom  
**Office Hours:** by appointment; please  
email to set up a time

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***This lecture schedule is based upon current university and public health guidelines and may be subject to changes during the term. Any changes to the schedule or course delivery will be communicated on the course announcements section on Avenue to Learn. Please check the announcements prior to attending each class.***

## **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: sex, gender, food, illness, and death 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
- 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
- Enhance your comparative, analytic, and critical thinking skills through reading and written assignments

## **Required Materials and Texts**

There is **one required textbook** for this course, and it is available through the bookstore or via Red Shelf or Vital Source

9780190168919 SEX FOOD AND DEATH MCMASTER UNIV CUSTOM PA (hard copy)  
9780190168926 SEX FOOD AND DEATH MCMASTER UNIV CUSTOM EPUB (digital)

To buy via the bookstore, go here:

[https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=231&wsDEPTG1=ANTHROP&wsCOURSEG1=1AA3&wsSECTIONG1=DAY%20C01&crit\\_cnt=1](https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=231&wsDEPTG1=ANTHROP&wsCOURSEG1=1AA3&wsSECTIONG1=DAY%20C01&crit_cnt=1)

**Links to buy the ebook via Red Shelf or Vital Source:**

**Red Shelf (note that Red Shelf posts prices in USD):**

<https://www.redshelf.com/app/ecom/search?terms=9780190168926%20>

**Vital Source (in USD):**

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/introduction-to-anthropology-sex-food-amp-death-various-v9780190168926?term=9780190168926>

**Class Format**

Two 50-minute in-person lectures per week, plus occasional posted online and asynchronous lectures. There are **no tutorials** for this class, but this course is a blended learning course. This means that, in lieu of having a third lecture period each week, you will spend this time working on projects, watching films, completing other assignments, or watching occasional online classes. NOTE: Lectures are recorded via Echo 360 and posted to A2L. Lectures will be made available for ONE WEEK after the class date. Remember that because the Echo videos are live recording and I do not have control over the recording process, lecture quality may vary. Sound may be muffled due to masks, you may hear background noises from students rustling papers in the lecture hall, etc. On average, about 5-7% of in-class lectures in the past have a technical issue (no sound, low sound, etc.) that the professor cannot control or fix. The onus is on you to come to class, take notes, and use the videos as backups (not replacements) of lectures. Ultimately, remember to rely on video recordings of in-person classes at your own risk.

**Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Assignment 1 - 25%, due by 11 p.m. Feb. 12th
2. Test # 1 – 25%, held ONLINE on Feb. 17th
3. Assignment 2 – 25%, due by 11 p.m. April 12th
4. Test # 2 – 25%, held ONLINE on April 5th

**Course Evaluation – Details**

**Assignment 1 (25%), due by 11 p.m. on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> to A2L drop box**

This assignment is a 1200-1400 word assignment that will be submitted to A2L as a Word file. More details provided during the second week of class and on A2L.

**Test 1 (25%), Feb. 17 – held ONLINE**

This test consists of 50 multiple choice questions and you will have one hour to complete the test. It covers all assigned readings, lectures, films up to the midterm test date. More information will be provided well in advance of the test.

This test will be ONLINE. You will have 60 minutes to respond to the 50 multiple choice questions. You will have one question/page and you cannot flip back through questions.

**Assignment 2 (25%), due April 12<sup>th</sup> by 11 p.m. to A2L**

This assignment is a 1200-1400 word assignment that will be submitted to A2L as a PDF or Word file. More details provided in class and on A2L.

## **Test 2 (25%), April 5th – held ONLINE**

This test will be ONLINE. You will have 60 minutes to respond to 50 multiple choice questions. Test 2 is NOT cumulative and tests you on material from the Midterm onward. More details will be provided in class.

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

**NOTE:** The chapters listed below refer to the chapters in the textbook **table of contents, which may differ from the chapter numbers printed on the top of each chapter.**

### **Week 1 (Jan. 11/13)**

**Introduction and welcome to the course/blended learning/What is anthropology?**

**Readings:** Chapter 1 pages 1-20, What is anthropology?

[https://www.thecut.com/2022/08/millennials-vs-gen-z-discourse.html?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://www.thecut.com/2022/08/millennials-vs-gen-z-discourse.html?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

### **Week 2 (Jan. 18/20)**

**Sex and Gender, part I**

**Readings:** Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8; also read this online article (testable):

<https://leakeyfoundation.org/what-our-skeletons-say-about-the-sex-binary/>

### **Week 3 (Jan. 25/27)**

**Sexuality/Death**

**Readings:** Chapters 5, 6 (continued from last week)

**Also:** <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/gravematters/tag/funeral-rituals/>

<https://thewalrus.ca/death-when-is-dead-actually-dead/>

**Notes:** In preparation for our Jan. 27 class, please read this article and watch the accompanying videos on “The Body Farm.” **Warning:** oftentimes graphic imagery/discussion of bodily decay, which some may find disturbing:

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/body-farm-20th-anniversary-032019>

### **Week 4 (Feb. 1/3)**

**February 1 – What Happens to Bodies after Death: Forensic Anthropology**

**Reading:** Chapter 23, Forensic Anthropology (in person and recorded)

**February 3 – Health and Disease**

**Readings:** Text, ch. 9 (Health and Disease) pp. 157-172; see the Echo 360 video posted re: Samantha Price and reconstructing disease in archaeology

**Week 5 (Feb. 8/10):**

**February 8 – Health and Disease, con't.**

**Readings:** ch. 10, 184-191 and Ch. 11, Globalization, Poverty and Infectious Disease

**Notes:** Assignment 2 will be posted this week, along with an accompanying video.

**February 10 – Human Origins, Part I**

**Readings:** Pages 35-39, and chapter 3 (note that this is chapter 3 in the table of contents – the first page of this chapter says ch. 5 but I'm going by the table of contents, starting on p. 43)

**Notes:** \*\*\*\*\*Assignment 1 is due to A2L drop box by 11 p.m. on Feb. 12th

**Week 6 (Feb. 15/17)**

**February 15 – Test Q&A with Karen (optional).** Held online via Zoom during class time. Zoom links to be provided.

**Notes:** No readings and no in person class today.

**February 17 – \*\*\*\*\*TEST #1.** Held online on A2L. I am not using Respondus; you will not be able to flip back through multiple choice questions. One question per page.

**Notes:** No in-person class or readings today.

**Week 7 (Week of Feb. 20): Reading Week. No classes.**

**Week 8 (March 1/3)**

**March 1 and March 3: Human Origins, Parts II and III**

**Readings:** continuation of ch. 3 (starting on p. 43), and chapter 4 (starting on p. 66)

**Week 9: (March 8/10)**

**March 8 and 10 – Reconstructing Ancient Foodways**

**Readings:** ch 12, The Origins of Agriculture, pages 265-276

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/ancient-roman-spectator-snacks-dog-bones-discovered-in-colosseum-dig-180981211/>

**Notes:** Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkRd6DSDV14>

**Week 10 (March 16/17)**

**Food and Culture**

**Readings:** Textbook, chapters 14 (Cooke article), chapter 15 (Lee article)

[https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/we-are-who-we-eat-with/?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/we-are-who-we-eat-with/?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/11/19/business/jell-o-america-dessert-ctpr/index.html>

[https://thewalrus.ca/garlic-in-a-jar/?utm\\_source=pocket-newtab](https://thewalrus.ca/garlic-in-a-jar/?utm_source=pocket-newtab)

### **Week 11 (March 23/24)**

#### **Food Fetishes and Food Taboos**

**Readings:** chapter 19 (Harris article)

### **Week 12 (March 30/31)**

#### **March 30/31– Food and Globalization**

**Reading:** chapter 21 (Leatherman and Goodman article)

### **Week 13 (April 5)**

**April 5 – Test #2** -- online – hours, details, etc. TBA). I am not using Respondus. You will not be able to flip back through multiple choice questions.

**April 7** – Office hours for help with essays. No in person class.

### **April 12 – Final papers are due**

**Notes: \*\*\*\*\*Assignment #2 is due to A2L by 11 p.m. on April 12**

## **Course Policies**

### **Submission of Assignments**

All assignments should be submitted electronically to the Avenue to Learn drop box in PDF or Word format by the due date/time.

### **Lecture recordings**

All lectures are recorded via Echo360. They will only be available under “Content” on Avenue to Learn for viewing for **one week** after the lecture date, after which time they are **permanently deleted**. There will be no exceptions to this policy for any reason.

### **Assignment Reappraisal**

Your assignments are marked by TAs 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 significantly lower than high school grades.

If you disagree with a grade on an assignment, do not immediately email Dr. McGarry or your TA. 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 by attending your TA's office hours. Remember to 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.

## 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

I will give everyone a 24-hour grace period for any late assignments. After this grace period, your TA will deduct 2/25 marks (so 2% of the overall course grade) per 24-hours (or part thereof) late, UP TO 4 CALENDAR DAYS LATE. This **includes weekends**. If your paper is more than 4 calendar days late (including the 24-hour grace period), then you will receive a 0. For example, if your grace period ends at 11 p.m. on a Friday, but you submit at 1 a.m. on the Saturday, then 2/25 marks will be deducted.

If you miss a test, then you will need to try and obtain a faculty issued MSAF exception. Please go to your faculty office. Documentation may be required. You cannot use a regular, self-reported MSAF because all course work in this class is worth 25%, and MSAF's cannot be used on work that is worth 25% or more in any course.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Please get in touch with Dr. McGarry if you are absent due to illness for an extended period.

Regardless of any illness or other absences, all students must complete all assigned course work (both assignments and both tests). If you receive a faculty issued MSAF, then you still must complete



all work within 7 calendar days of the original due date. We **do not re-weigh** any assignments or tests or shift the weight of an assignment or test to the final exam.

## **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**

### **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.