

# ANTHROP 1AA3 (C1) SEX, FOOD, AND DEATH Fall 2020

## Course Contacts

**Instructor:** Dr. L. Elizabeth Doyle

**Email:** doylel6@mcmaster.ca

**Office:** Remote only for Fall 2020

**Office Hours:** By appointment, online

**Lecture:** Asynchronous lectures posted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Mondays.

**Tutorials:** Synchronous via MS Teams. See Schedule on Mosaic. Teams links will be posted on A2L.

**Virtual Contact Times:**

Weds/Fri, 15:30-16:30h Eastern

**Email Contact:** Emails to the instructor and TAs must come from your McMaster email address and include ANTHROP 1AA3 in the subject line. (Otherwise they are likely to get lost!)

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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 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, 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.

## **Course Objectives**

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

- Provide examples of diverse research in the sub-disciplines of anthropology related to specific themes
- Identify and describe the theories, methods, and techniques used by anthropologists
- Recognize the human place in nature from an anthropological perspective
- Give examples of how of anthropological knowledge and practices relate to society as a whole
- Demonstrate critical thinking about contemporary issues and debates
- Practice comparative, analytic, and critical thinking skills through reading, tutorial discussions, and written assignments.

## **Required Materials and Texts**

***Sex, Food and Death – Anthropology 1AA3***. Custom Course Kit for McMaster University. Oxford University Press, 2020. **NOTE: This text is new, effective this term, Fall 2020.** Please DO NOT use or purchase any versions of this text that are older than September 2017 as the readings are completely different, and test and assignment questions are based upon the readings in the new text, not older ones.

Coates, K. 2016. The Myth of the Virgin Rainforest. *Sapiens*, 21 April 2016.  
Available at: <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/the-myth-of-the-virgin-rainforest/>

Bigham, Blair,. 2019. When is Dead Actually Dead? *The Walrus*, May 29 2019.  
Available at: <https://thewalrus.ca/death-when-is-dead-actually-dead/>

Nash, Stephen. 2018. The Weird, Wild World of Mortuary Customs. *Sapiens*, March 8 2018. Available at:

<https://www.sapiens.org/column/curiosities/embalming-culture-mortuary-customs/>

A number of documentaries will also be provided and will be discussed in lecture and tutorial. These are also testable.

## **Class Format & Instructor Availability**

### **Lectures**

This is an asynchronous course: Lecture videos will be posted for asynchronous access and hosted on Echo360. Lectures will be posted on Avenue2Learn by 23:59h every Monday.

### **Real-Time Instructor Availability**

One 1:50h lecture slot / Two 50 minute lecture slots are scheduled per week. Dr Doyle will schedule regular availability during these times for Q&A sessions, which will be held on Microsoft Teams. Links to Teams meetings will be posted to the course website beforehand. Q&A sessions will be recorded and will be available after class on Microsoft Stream. As a McMaster student, you have access to Office365 and all related apps (including MS Teams and Stream) free of charge.

**You can access MS Teams and Stream via your university account at**

<https://office365.mcmaster.ca/>

## **Teaching Assistants and Tutorials**

**This course has 6 TA-led tutorial sessions scheduled roughly biweekly over the term. Please register in one tutorial section and stick to that time!** You will also have access to a discussion forum for your tutorial group, through which you will be able to asynchronously participate throughout the term. Tutorials will be held synchronously on MS Teams, and will be recorded and streamed on MS Stream.

**Your tutorial group will be your learning community for ANTHROP 1AA3.**

The tutorials are a space for you to develop your assignment ideas, review material, and think through new learnings with your peers. Attending tutorials is an important part of building your campus network, so be sure to turn up!

### **Who is my TA?**

TA names/office hours/contact information will be posted on Avenue.

### **Who graded my assignment?**

Assignments will be divided equally amongst the grading TAs according to alphabetical order. Dr Doyle will post an announcement to Avenue2Learn identifying the grading TAs after Assignment 1 has been submitted.

## **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Assignment 1\*- 25%, due by 23:59 on Friday, Oct 09
2. Midterm Test - 25%, 50 minutes time availability, administered asynchronously on Oct 30
3. Assignment 2\* - 25%, due by 23:59 on Friday, Nov 13
4. Assignment 3\* - 25%, due by 23:59 on Friday, Dec 04
5. Final Exam - 25%, administered asynchronously during exam period.

\* Choose TWO of the THREE written assignments (Assignment 1, 2 or 3)!

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

Written Assignments: 2 x 25%, Complete TWO of THREE

Assignment 1 Critical Analysis (25%)\*, due 23:59 on Friday, Oct 09

Many of us learn about scientific findings through popular articles, which selectively publicize the most exciting interpretation of new research. In this assignment you will play the role of a science detective and uncover the real story behind a catchy science headline in a 1200-1400 word paper. Submitted as a PDF via Avenue 2 Learn.

Assignment 2 Critical Analysis (25%)\*, due 23:59 on Friday, Nov 13

Picking up on one of the themes of the course, choose one manifestation of it, and explore how it has been affected by the current pandemic, whether where you are or in another part of the world. Consider the implications of lockdown and other major policy measures through a cultural lens in a 1200-1400 word paper. Submitted as a PDF via Avenue 2 Learn.

Assignment 3 Reflection (25%)\*, due 23:59 on Friday, Dec 04

Select an event from your life experience, describe it, and then unpack it from an anthropological perspective. Your process of inquiry should tell you more about how your own experience interconnects with your cultural surroundings, history, and future in a 1200-1400 word paper. Submitted as a PDF via Avenue 2 Learn.

Midterm (25%), asynchronous, Oct 30

The midterm test will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. The test will be held asynchronously on Friday, October 30. It will be open for 24h, but must be completed in one 1h time block from the time you begin the test. Questions will be offered one at a time with no backtracking allowed. The exam will be limited open-book, with textbook and notes as permitted aids.

Final Exam (25%), asynchronous, date TBD, held during Exam Period (Thurs Dec 10-Thurs Dec 23)

The final exam will consist of 120 multiple choice questions. The exam will be cumulative, but more heavily weighted towards material covered after the midterm. It will be held **asynchronously, on the scheduled exam date (TBD)**. Questions will be offered one at a time with no backtracking allowed. The exam will be limited open-book, with textbook and notes as permitted aids.

## **Email and Tech Support Contact**

### **Dr Doyle's Email Commitment**

ANTHROP1AA3 may have up to 1000 students enrolled at once. **Please help me provide timely responses to email communications by reserving email for real emergencies.** Questions about course content, deadlines, assignments, and so on, should be addressed through your **tutorial discussion board, in tutorial, or in class.**

I will do my best to provide a timely response to email communications. During the week, I will generally get back to you within 48h. Emails sent during weekends or after 5pm will generally not receive a response until at least the next business day.

### **Rules for Email Contact**

Enrolments in ANTHROP1AA3 can be up to 1000 students across all sections. In an online learning environment, in particular, the amount of email communication can quickly get out of hand. Therefore, we will all be adhering to the below rules regarding email communication. **Email that does not follow these rules may not receive a timely response.**

- Use your **McMaster email address** for all course-related communications. (This will avoid your message being caught in a spam filter.)
- ALWAYS put ANTHROP1AA3 C1/C2 in the subject line. (Seriously, this is critical.)
- Reserve direct email for personal concerns ONLY (that is: personal emergencies).
- Demonstrate your troubleshooting steps! Troubleshooting is an incredibly valuable professional skill - don't underestimate it! (See below under "Tech Support and Other Matters")
- For all questions about course material /exams/etc, avenues of communication are:
  - ANTHROP1AA3 discussion boards (accessible through the A2L course website). These are monitored by teaching staff.
  - Tune in to a live Q&A session with Dr Doyle!
  - Talk to your TA during the tutorial!

## Tech Support and Other Matters

**Learning online can be challenging - plan ahead for technical issues!** You may be learning new technologies or working with technological barriers like a spotty internet connection. This course has been designed with that in mind: Dr Doyle has worked to streamline the technology as much as possible, and to design assessments with the possibility of poor Internet connections in mind. Although Avenue 2 Learn is a robust platform with a dedicated support team, **it is normal to encounter the occasional technological problem. This is an opportunity for you to practice the valuable professional skill of troubleshooting!**

## What To Do if You Encounter Technical Problems

Do not panic! Follow the below steps to troubleshoot:

1. **Document the problem:** ESPECIALLY if you are attempting to submit an assignment on deadline. Describe it in detail and **take screenshots that include your desktop clock as a time-stamp.**
2. Check the **Avenue To Learn Support Wiki:**  
<https://wiki.mcmaster.ca/avenue/>

3. Check the manufacturer's help documents!  
<https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/learners/learners.htm> A2L is McMaster's local version of Brightspace Desire2Learn (D2L), therefore many of its functions and quirks will be the same.
4. Contact the University Technology Support office at  
<https://uts.mcmaster.ca/>, or the Avenue2Learn help desk directly (during business hours): <https://avenue.mcmaster.ca/support.html>
5. If all else has failed ... proceed to contact your professor or TA!

### **After Troubleshooting: contact your TA or prof**

**If you decide to contact Dr Doyle or TA directly for help with resolving a problem** (e.g. clarification on a course component, or help with a tech problem you have encountered), describe what solutions you have already tried:

- **Describe at least 3 things that you have already tried, and why they didn't work.** (E.g., you checked the syllabus for the answer; you read the assignment guide; you posted your question to the appropriate discussion board; you searched the University website for more information; you reviewed the A2L help pages and Googled the problem; you contacted the A2L help desk).
- **Describe the problem in precise terms.** Include screenshots to show your screen if it is a tech problem.
- If you cannot do either of the above, your TA and/or Dr Doyle will ask you to do so.



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

### **Week 1: (2020/09/08- 2020/09/11)**

**TOPIC:** Course orientation & introducing anthropology

Readings: Chapter 1, pages 1-22

### **Week 2 (2020/09/14 - 2020/09/18)**

Readings: Chapter 6, The Five Sexes, 114-120

**TOPIC:** Bodies: Sex and Gender 1 & Library Skills

**TUTORIAL 1:** Preparing to Write a Critical Analysis Paper (Assignment 1)

### **Week 3 (2020/09/21 - 2020/09/26)**

**Readings:** Chapter 5: Spanning the World: Culture Constructs Gender Differences , pp 88-113,

**TOPIC:** Bodies: Sex & Gender 2

Notes: CW: Readings contain outdated language relating to gender & sexual identity

### **Week 4 (2020/09/28 - 2020/10/02)**

**Readings:** Chapters 9 and 10; Anthro Perspectives on Health and Disease, Healers & Healing

**TOPIC:** Health and Disease 1

**TUTORIAL 2:** Bodies in Life, Death, Health, and Disease ; intro to Assignment 2

### **Week 5 (2020/10/05 - 2020/10/09)**

**Readings:** Chapters 12: Globalization, Poverty & Infectious Disease ;

**TOPIC:** Health and Disease 2

Notes: **DEADLINE:** Assignment 1 Due, 23:59h Eastern on Friday, Oct 9th

**Week 6 (2020/10/12 - 2020/10/16)**

READING WEEK - No Class

**Week 7 (2020/10/19 - 2020/10/23)**

Readings: Bigham, 2019, and Nash, 2018

**TOPIC:** Death and What Comes After

**TUTORIAL 3:** Review for the Midterm Exam

**Week 8 (2020/10/26 - 2020/10/30)**

Readings: None

**Wednesday:** Synchronous Q&A; no lecture

**Friday: Midterm Exam**

**Notes:** midterm will be asynchronous, 24h to access, 1h to complete, randomized questions

**Week 9 (2020/11/02 - 2020/11/06)**

**Readings:** Chapter 2: What Can The Study of Primates Tell Us About Humans?

**Topic:** Human & Nonhuman Primate Biology

**TUTORIAL 4:** Preparing to write a reflection essay (Assignment 3)

**Week 10 (2020/11/09 - 2020/11/13)**

**Readings:** Chapter 4: How Did *Homo sapiens* evolve?

**Topic:** Human Origins

**Notes:** **DEADLINE:** Assignment 2 Due, 23:59h Eastern on Friday, Nov 13

**Week 11 (2020/11/16 - 2020/11/20)**

**Readings:** Chapters 17 & 18: The Diets of Early Hominins ; Food for Thought

**Topic:** Human Diets in Evolutionary Perspective

**TUTORIAL 5:** Food: Nutrition, Diet, Subsistence

**Week 12 (2020/11/23 - 2020/11/27)**

Readings: Chapter 12 and Coates 2016

**TOPIC:** Human Diets: Food Production

**Week 13 (2020/11/30 - 2020/12/04)**

Readings: Chapters 14,16: Canada's Food History ; The Evolution of Personal Food Taboos.

**TOPIC:** Food Taboos & Traditions

**TUTORIAL 5:** Course Review and Preparing for Final Exam

Notes: **DEADLINE:** Assignment 3 Due, 23:59h Eastern on Friday, Dec 4

**Week 14 (2020/12/07 -- 2020/12/11)**

Readings: None

**TOPIC:** Course Wrap-Up & Exam Review

Notes: Wednesday synchronous Q&A

**Final exam held during the Registrar's exam period.**

## **Course Policies**

### **Assignment Submissions**

All assignments will be submitted as PDF files to Avenue to Learn. **Assignments submitted by e-mail will not be accepted. Only PDF format will be accepted unless explicitly stated otherwise for the assignment in question.** Word documents, Presentation files, spreadsheets, text files, and images will NOT be marked.

**If you run into technical problems when submitting an assignment or exam, take a screenshot that shows your submission screen and desktop clock as a timestamp!** Then visit the Avenue to Learn Support page for help.

### **Late Submissions**

Late penalties: 20% off per 24-hour period (or part thereof late) for assignments, up to 72 hours (including weekends). After 72 hours, a grade of 0 is allocated.

Please note that resubmission of an assignment (for example if the initial submission is in a non-accepted format such as .docx) will be considered a late assignment.

### **Absences, Missed Work, Illness**

Due to the size of enrolment in this course, no extensions will be given without written certification approved by your Faculty office. Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>). **Note that MSAF's cannot be used in this course as all course work is worth 25%.** You must therefore visit your faculty office, with documentation, if you wish to apply for a faculty-issued MSAF.

Please note – **all deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format.**

## Assignment Reappraisal

Your assignments are marked by TAs using a grading rubric provided by the instructor, which is based on the criteria outlined in each assignment guide.

**Grades are not awarded based on demonstrated effort, but on demonstrated achievement.** It is normal for a student's average grade in university classes to be somewhat lower than their average grade in high school.

**If you disagree with a grade that you have received, please follow the below steps:**

1. **Wait 24h.** Re-read your assignment with a cooler head and consider the grading criteria outlined in the assignment guide.
2. **Seek more feedback:** If you require more information about your grade, contact the grading TA and ask for an appointment for further feedback.
3. **Formally request a re-grade:** Write a 300-word (max) statement, explaining why you believe the grader's assessment was mistaken, and submit it to Dr Doyle along with the original assignment (with TA feedback). **Dr Doyle will re-assess your work using the same rubric as the TA grader.**

If, after reappraisal by the instructor, you still disagree with an assessment, you may apply for a **re-read** via the McMaster Secretariat website:

<https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/re-read/>

## Grade Scale

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE	Qualitative Scale (*unofficial)
90-100	A+	In general, quantitative & categorical grades reflect the following qualitative criteria:
85-90	A	
80-84	A-	80% to 100% (A- to A+): Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
77-79	B+	
73-76	B	68% to 79% (B- to B+): Competent performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable
70-72	B-	
67-69	C+	

63-66	C	understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
60-62	C-	
57-59	D+	50% to 67% (D to C+): Adequate performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.
53-56	D	
50-52	D-	
0-49	F	00% to 49% (F): Inadequate performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

## Avenue to Learn & Lecture Recording

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Some real-time lecture sessions may be recorded. Attendees will be warned prior to the recording. 

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 visit: [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

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 behavior 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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **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 who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

## **Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

## **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.



## Online Elements

This course includes 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.

## 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.

## 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 their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

## 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.

