

ANTHROPOLOGY 1AA3: SEX, FOOD AND DEATH **Winter 2020**

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Lecture: Tu 1:30-2:20 p.m. and Th
1:30-2:20 pm. in PGCLL B138

Office: CNH 531

Office Hours: Tues. noon-1 p.m.

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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:

- 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

Sex, Food and Death – *Anthropology 1AA3*. Custom Course Kit for McMaster University. Oxford University Press, 2017. NOTE: This text is new, effective last September 2017. 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.

Class Format

Two 50 minute lectures per week. 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 or completing other assignments.

Teaching Assistants/Who is my TA

Note: There are no weekly tutorials for this course but your TA's have weekly office hours. TA names/office hours/contact information will be posted on Avenue. Please visit your TA with any questions about assignments/grading of assignments.

Course Evaluation – Overview

Course grades will be assigned based on the following learning assessments:

1. **Midterm Test: 25%**
2. **Choice of two/three assignment options: 2 @ 25% each**
3. **Final Exam: 25% - in Registrar's office exam period**

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm Test: 25% - 50 multiple choice questions; held in class on Feb. 27

Assignment 1 option: 25%, due January 30 by 11 p.m. to Avenue

Essay assignment – see details on assignment sheet.

Assignment 2 option: 25%, due February 13 by 11 p.m. to Avenue

Essay assignment – see details on assignment sheet.

Assignment 3 option: 25%, due March 31 by 11 p.m. to Avenue

Essay assignment – see details on assignment sheet.

Final exam: 25% - Date TBA (in Reg. office exam period); multiple choice format.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

******REMEMBER: when choosing assignments, you will pick 2/3 only. You also cannot do two the same week. All assignments will be posted on Avenue by January 13.**

Week 1

January 7 – Introduction to the course

Readings: none for today

January 9 – What is anthropology?

Reading: Textbook, Chapter 1, pages 27-42

Notes: [Please watch this film this week: *Iceman Reborn* -- YouTube Watch-Iceman Reborn](#)

Week 2

January 14 and 16: Anthropology of Sex and Gender - How are men and women different? Or are they? What is the difference between sex and gender? What are gender roles?

Readings: Textbook pages 45-99

Notes: I will go over Assignment 1 this week.

Week 3

January 21 and 23: Sex and Gender, con't

Readings: continuation of readings from last week

Notes: Watch this film this week: "Codes of Gender."

<https://mcmaster.kanopy.com/welcome/video/codes-gender>

Week 4

January 28 and 30: Death and Illness

Readings: Textbook, pages 201-213 (skip the section on "Evolutionary Perspectives on Health"); 219-222 (skip the "Interpretive Approaches..." and "Medical Anthro" sections); 225-241; 254-258; 266-305

Notes: ******JANUARY 30: ASSIGNMENT 1** option is due to Avenue by 11 p.m. Remember that you need to do 2/3 assignments. If you do NOT want to do this one, then just don't submit it. It's not necessary to email us to let us know 😊

Week 5

February 4 and 6: Death and Illness, part II

Readings: con't from last week. Also: Bigham, Blair, "When is Dead Actually Dead?": [The walrus/death- when is dead actually dead](#)

Also read, (posted to Avenue): "How Death Imitates Life"

Week 6

February 11 and 13: What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton?

Readings: Textbook, pages 175-200

Notes: *** Assignment Option 2 is due by 11 p.m. February 13 to Avenue.**
Remember that you need to do 2/3 assignments. If you do NOT want to do this one, then just don't submit it. It's not necessary to email us to let us know 😊

Week 7

Week of Feb. 17 – Reading Week. No classes.

Week 8

February 25: Study Day. No class.

February 27: Midterm test in class. This test is 50 mins long and consists of 50 multiple choice questions.

Week 9

March 3 and 5: Human Origins and Environments

Readings: Textbook, 103-172

Week 10

March 10 and 12: Homo erectus and Neanderthals

Readings: continuation of March 3 and 5

Week 11

March 17 and 19: Food - Agriculture

Readings: Textbook, pages 399-403 and 309-351

Week

March 24: Food and Culture: Fetishes and Taboos

Readings: pages 375-389, 394-398 and 409-413

March 26: Food, Globalization and Culture

Readings: Textbook, 432-443

Week 13

March 31: Food, Globalization and Culture, con't

This week: Watch this film - "Big Sugar:"

[YouTube - Big Sugar](#)

April 2: Course Wrap up, exam review

Notes:***Assignment 3 option due March 31 by 11 p.m. to Avenue.**

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments submitted by e-mail **will not be accepted**. No extensions will be given unless written certification, approved by your Faculty office, is provided. Please note that policies concerning the use of MSAFs (McMaster Student Absence Forms) have changed (see [McMaster Student Absence Forms](#)). 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 as the online form will not work.

Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments:

We cannot communicate with you over e-mail re: grades. You must see us in person during office hours. 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 Professor McGarry during her office hours. Remember that I grade your work carefully and rarely change grades. If you would like me to reappraise your work, then please submit (to Professor McGarry) the original paper with a maximum 300-word (typed) explanation of why you think you deserve a higher mark. The Professor will read your paper and your grade may go up, go down or stay the same. Generally speaking, marks do not tend to increase. There was only one case last year of a grade increase. Remember that in first year university courses, student grades, on average, tend to decrease, on average, 16% from high school averages....and that's assuming that you are putting a lot of effort into your work. In other words, it takes a lot more effort and hard work to achieve the "A" grade that you may have easily received in high school. Please also note that marks are not awarded (unfortunately!) for effort but for the quality of the final product (achievement).

Please note – all deferred and makeup exams will be in essay format – 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+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D

MARK	GRADE
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

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.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Any missed work due to illness or other circumstances cannot be MSAF'd as each graded component of this course is worth 25%. Please visit your faculty office with documentation to apply for a faculty-issued MSAF.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Lectures will be presented using Power Point, an abbreviated version of which will be posted on ATL. You must be registered in the course to have access to the 1AA3 site. 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 [McMaster Academic Integrity](#).

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 [McMaster Academic Integrity](#).

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.

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. 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.

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.