

ANTHROPOLOGY 1AA3 (C01): SEX, FOOD AND DEATH

Spring 2021

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Lectures: Asynchronous; posted to A2L on Mondays.
Tutorial: Synchronous via Zoom (link on A2L).

Office: Virtual office
Office Hours: Fridays 1:00-5:30 via Zoom. Email for appointment.

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the four fields of Anthropology, and their sub-disciplines through the discussion of some most probing questions that anthropologists investigate in contemporary and past societies. Some of the issues explored in this course include; sex, gender, food, illness, and death which will be explored 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, and some of the most pressing topics inherent to the discipline.

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 human being's role within the anthropocene
- 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, 2020. NOTE: This text is new, effective Fall 2020. Please do not use or purchase any older versions of a 1AA3 text as the readings are completely different, and test and assignment questions are based upon the readings in the new text, not older ones.

You can purchase the text online from *Red Shelf*:

<https://redshelf.com/book/1625891/introduction-to-anthropology-1625891-9780199017034/>

Hard copies of the textbook can also be ordered through the McMaster bookstore. Keep in mind, however, that shipping is often slow.

Class Format

1. **Asynchronous lectures** posted biweekly to Avenue to Learn.
2. **Q&A** –are held once a week before essays, exams etc. (see dates below).
3. **Who is my TA?** TA names/office hours/contact information will be posted on Avenue. Please ask your TA any questions about assignments/grading of assignments. Zoom links for tutorials will be posted to A2L.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Test #1 – 25% May 25th
2. Test #2 – 25% June 17th
3. Two assignments – 50% (25% each)
 - 1 essay May 18th
 - 1 poster June 10th

Course Evaluation – Details

Test #1 (25%), May 25th

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.

Test #2 (25%), June 17th

This test consists of 50 multiple choice questions and you will have one hour to complete the test. It is not cumulative.

Assignment 1 (25%), due May 18th by 11.59 p.m. This assignment is a 500-750 word essay that will be submitted to A2L as a PDF. More details provided during the second week of class and on A2L.

Assignment 2 (25%), due June 10th by 11.59 p.m. This assignment is a poster that will be submitted to A2L as a PDF. More details provided in lecture and on A2L.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1

May 4th – Introduction to the course

Readings: Please read the course syllabus thoroughly.

May 6th- What is Anthropology?

Reading: Chapter 1, pages 1-20

Watch 5 min video on what anthropology is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5aglbqTEig>

Week 2

May 11th - Sex and Gender, An Introduction

How are men and women different? What is the difference between sex and gender? What are gender roles?

Readings: Textbook, pages 88-129 (skip 115-119 – Fausto-Sterling as we will read this for next week)

I will also post an informational lecture video on the 500-750 word ESSAY due in on May 18th and on the exam on May 20th.

Watch this film: *The Codes of Gender: Identity and Performance in Popular Culture* (available via e-streaming in McMaster Library).

https://discovery.mcmaster.ca/iii/encore/plus/C_Scodes%20of%20gender_Orightresult_U?lang=eng

May 13th: Third Gender, Sex and Sexuality

Readings: Textbook, 133-143 (Kulick article) and 115-119 (Fausto-Sterling article)

Q&A on zoom A2L link, please join with any questions you have on the essay and the upcoming exam.

Week 3

May 18th: Cross-cultural Perspectives on Death/Health and Illness

Readings: 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/>
BOOK:read chapter 11

ESSAY DUE IN ON MAY 18TH.

May 20th: Making sense of Death and COVID through Religion

Readings: Kingsbury, K. and Chesnut, R. A. Holy Death in the Time of Coronavirus: Santa Muerte, the Salubrious Saint. *Int J Lat Am Relig* **4**, 194–217 (2020).
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41603-020-00110-6>

Week 4

May 25th - **Midterm Exam**

May 27th: Human Origins, Part I

Readings: Chapter 2 and ch. 3, pages 43-56

Week 5

June 1st: Human Origins, Part II

Readings: Chapters 3, page 56 onward and ch. 4

June 3rd:

Live Q&A: We will discuss what is expected from the poster assignment, please ask all your questions.

Week 6

June 8th: Agriculture

Readings: Chapter 12, The Origins of Agriculture

June 10th: Food Taboos/Food and Globalization

Readings: Textbook, pages 303-332; 352-356, 375-386

Poster assignment due, uploaded on A2L by 11.59pm, as a PDF

Week 7

June 15th: Exam overview lecture

June 17th: EXAM Please log in to A2L and go to “Quizzes.” The test is multiple choice and you will be given 1 hour to complete 50 multiple choice questions. It is open-book. I am not using *Respondus* (cheating detection software). You will not be able to flip back through questions.

Notes: No lectures, tutorials, or readings are scheduled for this week.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

Assignments submitted by e-mail will not be accepted. All assignments must be submitted in PDF format to the A2L drop box by the due date/time. You will find this under the “Assignments” tab.

Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments

If you are concerned or confused about the grading of your assignment after you get it back, then please refrain from writing hasty emails to your TA or to Dr. Kingsbury. Wait at least 24 hours and think about why you received the grade that you did, and how you could have improved. If you are still confused or unsure about your grade, then your first step is to discuss your work **with the TA who graded your work**. After this, if you still have questions, then please discuss the situation with Professor Kingsbury. Remember that we grade your work carefully and Dr. Kingsbury rarely changes grades. If you would like her to reappraise your work, then via email, please submit (to Professor Kingsbury) the original paper with a maximum 300-word (typed) explanation of why you think you deserve a higher mark. **This must be done WITHIN TWO WEEKS of the A2L release date of your grade.**

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. Remember that in first year university courses, student grades, on average, tend to decrease at least 10-15% 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).

Deferred Tests

Please note – all deferred 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
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

10% off for each 24-hour period late (or part thereof). For example, if an essay is due at 9 a.m. and you submit it the same day at 11:30 a.m., then you will receive a 10% deduction.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Because all course work is worth 25% or more, you cannot use a student-initiated MSAF for any components of this course. Please get in touch with Dr. Kingsbury if you are ill or need to request an extension.

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, 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.

