

Anthropology 1AA3 – Winter 2018 – McMaster University
Introduction to Anthropology: Sex, Food and Death

Instructor: Dr. Karen McGarry

E-mail: mcgarry@mcmaster.ca

Office Location: Chester New Hall (South wing), Room 531

Lectures: Mondays and Thursdays 9:30-10:20 a.m. in TSH 120

Office Hours: Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. or Mondays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Phone: 905-525-9140 ext. 23901 (Note that e-mail is the best way to get in touch with me)

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.

Blended Learning: Note that this course is a BLENDED LEARNING class. This means that we will meet in person in class on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays are spent working on projects, on films or other assignments that will normally be due on various Tuesdays.

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.

Learning Objectives:

Through this course, you will:

- 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 Course Materials:

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

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

1. **Test #1: 25%**

2. **Three course activities/assignments – 3 @ 15% each** (see the due dates on Avenue). You can only do **one per week**, which means that you cannot do both options 1 and 2 (where available) during any one week. You have **4 to choose from**. **Note that we also will not mark all 4 and take the best 3/4 marks. You can only select three assignments to do.**

3. **Final Exam – 30%**

Exams: The exams will consist of multiple choice questions only. They will cover all assigned readings, lectures, films, guest talks (if applicable), and other course material.

Policy on the 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 <http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>). Please see the assignment for directions on using an MSAF on our assignments as there are restrictions in place.

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.

Policy on Reappraisals of Assignments:

I cannot communicate with you over email re: grades. You must see me in person during office hours. If you are concerned or confused about the grading of your assignment after you get it back, then please see Professor McGarry. 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 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).

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

MSAF (McMaster Student Absence Form)

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.

Avenue to Learn (ATL) -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. **Please familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn system.**

You can access ATL at: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/?logout=1>

Lecture Capture/Podcasts: will be posted on Avenue approximately 3-4 days after each lecture date. NOTE: films and guest lectures (depending upon copyright agreements) may NOT be postcast. In addition, the podcast system is not 100% accurate, so please do not rely upon podcasts only. It is best to attend class regularly. Podcasts are available for online streaming and individual student use only.

Correspondence - I will check my email regularly throughout the week, so you can expect a response within approximately **48 hours**. Please put **1AA3 in the subject line** of your email and **include your name and student number** at the end of all correspondence.

Student Behavior and Responsibilities –

Your learning – it is your responsibility to **keep up with the readings** – do not leave them until the night before the exams. Attendance in this class is **essential** if you want to do well in this course. You are expected to think about the readings and integrate them into the information and concepts presented during lecture.

Classroom behavior – Please **do not be afraid to ask questions** or provide constructive

comments! If you do not understand something, or if I have gone over a concept too fast, stop me and ask a question. Chances are if you do not understand something, other people in the class are in the same position.

Please ensure that cell phones are turned off (including text messaging, Twitter, etc...) and **arrive on time for class**. If you have to leave class early, please sit near one of the exits. **Laptop computers** may be used in class for taking notes, but students using their computers for any other purpose (e.g., checking Facebook) will be asked to turn their computers off. Please be polite to your neighbours and **keep conversation to a minimum**.

NOTE THAT ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED: We do not re-distribute/re-weigh grades in the event of an MSAF. An MSAF simply gives you an extension on work missed.

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.**

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

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

Special Accommodations -

Any student with special learning needs should contact Dr. McGarry by the end of the **second week** of classes at the latest. You must have written confirmation from Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Center for Student Development). Students can contact SAS to arrange assistance in the completion of exams. <http://sas.mcmaster.ca/>. SAS is located in **MUSC-B107 905-525-9140 x28652**
NOTE: Disclosure of disability-related information is personal and confidential.

Student Accessibility Services offers various supports for students with disabilities. We work with full time and part time students. SAS provides or assists students with their academic and disability-related needs, including: Learning Strategies, Assistive Technologies, Test & Exam Administration, Note-Taking Programs, Classroom Accommodations. Please inform the instructor if there are disability needs that are not being met.

McMaster University Policy on Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities & McMaster University Anti-Discrimination Policy

• <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

Student Success Centre: <http://studentssuccess.mcmaster.ca> GH-110 905-525-9140 x24254

Provides the following services: student orientation, academic skills, leadership, service-learning, volunteerism, educational planning, employment and career transition.

Student Wellness Centre <http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/> MUSC-B101& B106 905-525-9140 x27700

Provides services in: Personal and Psychological Counselling, Mental Health Support, Medical and Health Services

***NOTE:** 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.*

Course Schedule:

REMEMBER: when choosing assignments, you will pick 3/4 only. You also cannot do two the same week. Assignments will be posted on Avenue by January 10th.

Thursday January 4: Introduction to the course/What is a blended learning class?

Monday January 8: What is anthropology?

Readings: Textbook, Chapter 1, pages 27-42

Thursday January 11 and Monday January 15: 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

Tuesday January 16: Remember there are no classes on Tuesdays. Please watch this film: *Iceman*

Reborn -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUEJwKGM1DY>

Thurs. January 18 and Monday January 22: Anthropology of Sex and Gender, con't

Tuesday January 23: Watch this film: "Codes of Gender."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=987PXrG39-k>

January 25, 29 and Feb. 1: Death and Illness

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

Monday February 5: What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton?

Reading: Textbook, pages 175-200

Thursday February 8: What happens to bodies after death? What can we learn from the human skeleton? – con’t from October 6

Reading: Textbook, pages 175-200

Monday Feb. 12: No class. Study Day!

Thursday February 15: Midterm test in class.

Feb. 19-23: No classes. Reading Week.

Monday Feb. 26, March 1, 5 and 8: Humans, Bodies and Environments, chapter 5

Reading: Textbook, 103-172

March 12 and 15: Food!: Agriculture

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

Monday March 19: Food and Culture: Fetishes and Taboos!

Readings: Textbook, pages 394-398 and 409-413

Thurs. March 22, March 26 and March 29: Food, Globalization and Culture

Readings: Textbook, 432-443

Monday April 2: Final test in class

Thurs. April 5: What can I do with anthropology?